

THE GATEWAY

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U of A 166th in world ranking

CHLOE PEDRO
News Writer

In the competitive realm of higher education, students are not the only ones made to compete.

Universities themselves are compared and rated for global recognition. In a first attempt to use peer reviews to rank the world's best universities, the *Times Higher Education Supplement* (THES), a research magazine for the academic community of the United Kingdom, has placed the University of Alberta at 166 out of the top 200.

"Canadian universities in general are very highly regarded. [The U of A has] very important agreements around the world [...] and I think that puts us on the international map."

DR CARL AMRHIN, U OF A PROVOST AND VP (ACADEMIC)

Carl Amrhein, U of A provost and vice-president (academic), said that being ranked 166th in the world is not insignificant, given the sizeable number of universities in the world.

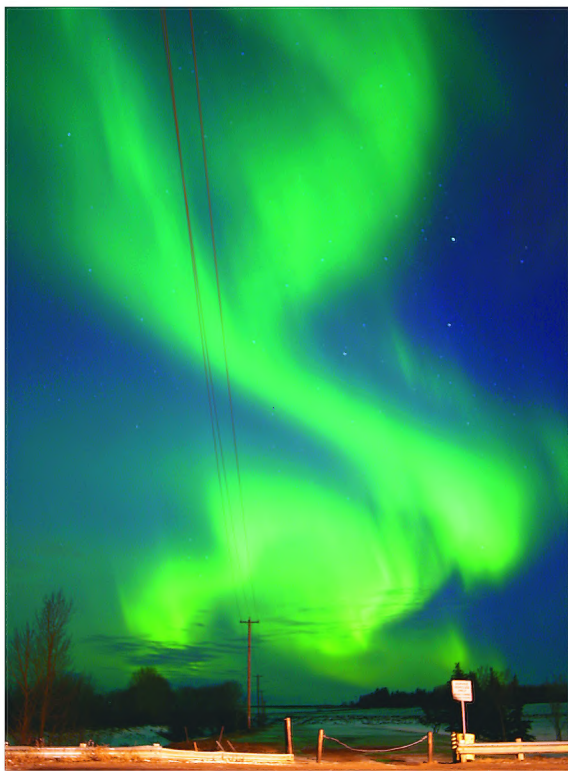
"Canadian universities in general are very highly regarded. [The U of A has] very important agreements around the world: in Europe, in Asia, in Mexico and I think that puts us on the international map," Amrhein said.

However, within the magazine's North American rankings, 47 out of the top 50 institutions were American. While a mere three were Canadian, the U of A was completely left out.

"I would argue that there is much better evidence that we are [in the] top 50 in North America," said Amrhein.

"We've just been ranked by the *Scientist* magazine, just to show you how these different surveys can differ, as the second best place in the world, outside of the US, to be a scientist; this is life sciences. So, every one of these surveys touches on a slightly different issue."

PLEASE SEE THIS • PAGE 3



THE END IS NEAR? No, silly, it's just Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights which brightened city skies last Thursday.

JEFF GREENIAUS

Students protest half-baked funding

IAN RODDICK
News Writer

Last week, a group of students sold baked goods for \$20 000 a piece at the Legislature, protesting the financial woes facing postsecondary education.

The Wednesday bake sale was organized by Debt Sentences, a student group protesting student debt. In concert with the Students' Union, to garner the interest of local media by selling the pricey homemade treats. The price tag represents the average debt that a student in Alberta will incur at the end of a four-year degree.

SU President Jordan Blatz said that the Alberta government is making a big mistake by tolerating the situation.

"Postsecondary education is truly the lynch pin in Alberta's future prosperity as we move forward beyond our oil revenues. Our government has just announced that they are debt-free. Well, if debt is so unacceptable for our government, why is it acceptable for our students?" he asked.

Interested passersby gained information on student debt through pamphlets and humorous musical performances by the event's participants. But the event's main goal was to spread this message to provincial voters through Edmonton's major media outlets. SU Vice-President (External) Alex Abboud said that in order to move student debt into the limelight of this election, student action like the bake sale must persist.

PLEASE SEE PROTEST • PAGE 4

Suicide awareness week starts at U of A

MARIE BROEMELING
News Writer

Suicide is the second most common cause of death after accidents for university students between the ages of 20 and 24, a statistic that two forces on campus are hoping to change.

While two University of Alberta researchers are trying to understand suicidal behaviour in adolescents and young adults, the Student Distress Centre, a student-run crisis intervention and information centre on campus, is holding Suicide Awareness Week from 15-19 November to dispel misconceptions about suicide on campus.

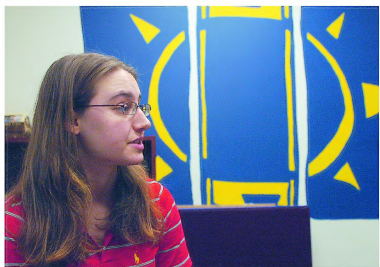
Through Suicide Awareness Week, the Student Distress Centre is attempting to raise awareness about the suicide

in the university community.

"A lot of people don't realize how prevalent suicide is. ... We want to raise that awareness and decrease the stigma of talking about suicide. So, if there are people who feel there's no one around that they can talk to, [they know] that it's okay to come in and ask for help," said Elisabeth Kunzle, a team leader at the Student Distress Centre.

In addition, Kunzle hopes to raise awareness of the warning signs of suicide, including changes in behaviour, withdrawal from social interaction, a drop in grades, or putting one's affairs in order. A suicidal person will often give verbal clues as well, which might even include joking about suicide.

PLEASE SEE SUICIDE • PAGE 4

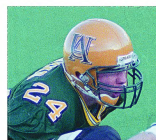


LEANNE FONG

EDUCATION IS KEY Elisabeth Kunzle of the Student Distress Centre.

Inside

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10 Alberta's football season came to a premature end on Saturday as the first-place Golden Bears lost a 21-20 nailbiter to the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Hardy Cup final.

From the archives

The residents of Lister's MacKenzie Hall were almost to a riot level when their elevators were shut down as punishment over massive vandalism. The Lister Hall Student's Association made the controversial decision after over \$300 dollars worth of damage was done to the lifts in the crescendo of an escalating pattern of destruction where students would often press the emergency stop button for no reason and try to open the elevator doors between floors. Students affected were disturbed that the actions of a careless few could take away their elevator privileges. A petition circulated around the residence claiming that the shutdown of the elevators was a violation of residents' rights and irresponsible to those whose health impeded stair climbing.

1980



15 Like he loves Naomi Klein, Avi Lewis loves sharing alternatives to globalization (like he does in his film, *The Take*). He also loves sharing with the Gateway Read about it in A&E.

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colophon

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which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on
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The Gateway's sister paper is the Manitoban. The
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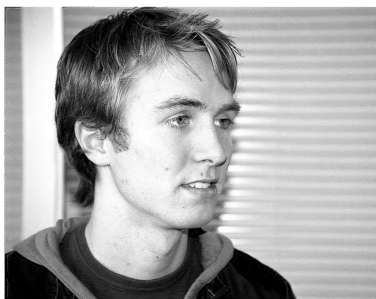
Roast coffee, not farmers, says student group

CHLOE PEDRO

News Writer

Through global networks of trade,
coffee is made readily available to
people across the world who depend
on their morning brew to get them
through the day. In a campaign to
advocate the rights of coffee producers
who are dependent on market prices,
a group of students called Just Java
hope to educate the campus about the
benefits of fair-trade coffee.Just Java has organized the 1 Support
Fair Trade campaign that will run in
conjunction with a postcard campaign,
with booths set up across campus to
offer information pamphlets about
fair-trade coffee. The campaign will
run from 15-19 November, and there
will be an information night at the
International Centre on 16 November.The trend of free-market enterprise
on a global scale encourages fewer
barriers and restrictions on trade.
This often leaves the producers as
the losers against competitive cor-
porate forces, argued Adam Kaasa, a
member of the new organization. As
an alternative, fair trade fights for the
economic rights of workers and pro-
ducers, assuring the cost of produc-
tion is covered and that a fair price is
paid for their work.

By working with businesses and

consumers alike, Kaasa wants to create
an awareness to increase the demand
for fair-trade coffee."When you buy fair-trade coffee,
it comes from a democratic union of
individual farmers rather than what
you might call industrial plantations
or large land owners," said Kaasa."The coffee that's produced is done
so in a more ethical way, so the work-
ers are treated well because it's their
own farm, their own co-operative.""The co-operative puts money back
from the fair price they're getting for
coffee into education, into community
hospitals, to foster a better sense of sus-
tainable community where they live."Fair trade allows a more equitable
distribution of wealth in the world.
For some people in the global South,
Kaasa said fair trade makes the differ-
ence between mere survival and effective
sustainability.The Students' Union has also
been promoting fair-trade coffee
on campus, making it an option at
SUB businesses and serving it at the
Powerplant and RATT Vice-President
(Operations and Finance) Alvin Law
says that the SU has been buying fair-
trade coffee for over a year now."The SU [is based] on certain prin-
ciples that basically support students
and supports community, so we really
shy away from anything that might be

COFFEE FARMERS DESERVE FAIR PAY Adam Kaasa of student group Just Java.

considered detrimental to a certain
group. Fair trade was one of [these
issues]," said Law.Just Java is targeting businesses on
campus that are not under the SU's
jurisdiction to make fair-trade coffee
more readily available to people who
believe in its principles of protection-
ism and shared profit."We're doing a postcard campaign
that is akin to a petition, but it gives a
certain material and visual dimensionto a petition that might not otherwise
be there. We're going to present that
to the University," said Kaasa."We're trying to raise awareness in
the student body so that they create
the demand necessary for businesses
to adopt this positive change towards
supplying a choice of fair-trade coffee.
So if students just ask for fair-trade
coffee, then they'll receive fair-trade
coffee and the justice that goes along
with it."CAMPUS
CRIME BEATCompiled by Cosanna Preston
(cosanna@gateway.uAlberta.ca)

STUPID IS WHAT STUPID DOES

Around 2:30am on Saturday, 13
November, Campus 5-0 observed a silver
Saturn sedan making an illegal U-turn at
89 Avenue and 114 Street. The vehicle
contained several occupants and the
driver displayed signs of intoxication. He
was subsequently issued a 24-hour sus-
pension and his vehicle was towed. This
person was not affiliated with the U of A.MENDITCH GLOVES AND GET THE
BOOTOn Saturday, 13 November at 1:35am,
two suspicious males were walking
southbound on 112 Street, south of HUB
Mall, 5-0 approached one of the males
after he discarded a pair of gloves.Both males had extensive criminal
histories and one of the males had an
outstanding warrant for robbery. EPS
was contacted.

BICYCLE BLUES

Shortly after 6pm on Friday, 12 November,
5-0 officers, under the Prevention of
Youth Tobacco Act, questioned three
males not affiliated with the U of A near
the south end of HUB Mall. One male
was arrested for trespassing, and after a
bicycle in their possession was found to be
stolen, the other two were arrested for
possession of stolen property.

UNMONITORED MONITORS SNATCHED

Just before 11am on Friday, 12 November,
U of A staff reported that something
between the afternoon of 11 November
and the morning of 12 November, a
University of Alberta office within the
Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences
facility was broken into and that two 17
in" monitors worth approximately \$1100
were stolen.

HE WANTED MONEY, NOT HONEY

On Thursday, 11 November at 8:08pm
a female student called Campus 5-0 on her
cellphone to report that a male was fol-
lowing her on 110 Street and 87 Avenue.
She advised that the male had been
asking her for money. Constables arrived
on the scene within minutes and iden-
tified the male, who was then trespassingand escorted off of University property.
He was not affiliated with the U of A.

NOT A GAME OF KNIFEY-SPONY

At 11:30pm on Wednesday, 10 November
Edmonton Transit Centre reported that
a male pulled a knife on another male
in the University LRT station. After speak-
ing to various witnesses, 5-0 learned that
the male with the knife had left the area.
The other male involved was identified
and issued a public intoxication ticket after
witnesses stated that the intoxicated male
had initiated the altercation.TRESPASSER TRESPASSED TO REMOVE
TRESPASSAt 11:40pm on Wednesday, 10 November
a male not affiliated with the U of A
who was previously trespassing from
University property telephoned Campus
Security to request that his trespass be
rescinded. Unfortunately, he was calling
from a University telephone. Officers
located the male in the Extension Center
and arrested him for trespassing.

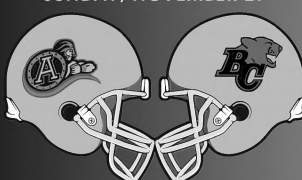
OH ON THE STUPID METER

At 2am on Tuesday, 9 November, four
males left Windsor's Bar and Grill with
open alcohol. The males left in a vehiclethat was stopped by Campus Security.
The operator of the vehicle, who was
not affiliated with the U of A, was a sus-
pended driver. The vehicle was towed,
and the driver was charged.

ONELAST BENDER

Around 3:10pm on Monday 8 November,
a HUB resident called Campus Security
to report that a male was throwing items
in a stairwell in HUB Mall. The male, who
was not affiliated with the U of A, was
identified by campus security to have
an extensive criminal history. The male
appeared to be under the influence of a
narcotic. He claimed to be on his way to
an AODAC treatment facility to enter a
drug rehabilitation program.

KEEP YER EYES PEELED!

During the past week, Campus Security
has logged 17 suspicious persons com-
plaints, many of which were called in by
members of the University community.
5-0 relies on the "eyes and ears" of our
campus partners in order to prevent
crime at the U of A. If you observe some-
one on campus that is behaving in a sus-
picious manner, please do not hesitate to
call. Constables will handle every call with
the utmost discretion.GREY CUP 2004
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Tories lack social policy: Mason

A Q&A with Alberta NDP party leader Brian Mason, part of a series of interviews with provincial party leaders

ROSS MORRIS
News Writer

As part of our ongoing coverage of the upcoming provincial election, the Gateway has extended interview requests to the leaders of Alberta's three leading political parties: the Liberals (featured last issue), the NDP and the Progressive Conservatives, who at press time had not responded to our invitation.

NDP leader Brian Mason spoke to us before last week's televised debate.

Gateway: Before becoming an MLA in the late '90s, you sat on Edmonton City Council, and before that you were an ETS bus driver. Why did you decide to get into provincial politics?

Brian Mason: I'd been on city council for eleven years, and I was looking for new challenges. I thought it would be fun to try to come at it from a little bit of a different angle. Being an MLA allows me to use the skills and the knowledge that I gained as a city councillor to make a contribution to the public in a meaningful way.

GW: The NDP has held two seats in the legislature since 1997. How do you plan to change this?

BM: It all depends on the voters, doesn't it? For example, there was a recent poll that shows us gaining significantly, mostly at the expense of the Liberals. We're basically at about twice the level of popular support we were before the last election, so things are looking good.

GW: In the last election, some ridings were won by the Tories because of vote splitting between your party and the Liberals. How are you trying to avoid that this time around?

BM: We're focused more on defeating Tory MLAs, because they haven't stood up for Edmonton, they haven't stood up for education and they're hiding their real healthcare agenda from Albertans. We hope that voters see that we are the most effective opposition party and vote for us, because we can bring about change in a way that no other opposition party can.

GW: One of your party's more contentious policies is to impose a 40 per cent surcharge on royalties paid by energy companies as oil prices

stay high. It's an idea that doesn't sit well with oil companies, who have threatened to leave the province if such a policy becomes law. With such strong opposition, is this a wise policy?

BM: I think that it's very wise. Don't forget that the current royalty structure was designed for ten-dollar-a-barrel oil; it's now worth more than fifty. So we would just take an increased share of that additional wealth. Since Albertans own the resource, it's only fair that the additional value partly benefit Albertans.

"We're focused more on defeating Tory MLAs because they haven't stood up for Edmonton, they haven't stood up for education and they're hiding their real healthcare agenda from Albertans."

**BRIAN MASON,
ALBERTA NDP LEADER**

GW: Your party has been very critical of the government's approach to postsecondary education. What would the NDP do differently?

BM: We're the only party that is talking about a ten per cent tuition rollback. Tuition has increased by roughly \$2000 dollars in the last ten years, and we now have an education system that is increasingly less accessible. ... [The NDP] will make sure that anyone that wants to go to university or college and has got the marks is able to do so.

GW: One area where the government is possibly vulnerable is its social policy. Comments by the premier and MLAs about things like gay marriage and AIDS have angered many. How is the NDP's social policy different than the Conservatives?

BM: It's like night and day. We believe in the equality of all people. The Conservatives like to say that they are not anti-gay, but they support discrimination against gays and lesbians. It goes far beyond that, though. We believe that people with

disabilities deserve to be treated with dignity and not insulted by the premier. We believe that workers should have more rights in the workplace. We believe that academic and journalistic freedom needs to be maintained.

GW: The aforementioned social conservatism of the PCs probably works against them in Edmonton, but socially conservative policies tend to play very well in rural Alberta. How can the NDP get rural support in spite of its unpopular social policies?

BM: We talk to rural Albertans about their economic interests. The Conservatives' approach to rural Alberta is that bigger is better. They want to replace farmer-owned cooperatives with big corporations wherever possible. We are talking about things that will help the family farm survive, and you don't have to look any farther than their gross miscalculation of the BSE crisis to realize that they have offended many of their core supporters in rural Alberta.

GW: Alberta has a very low tax rate compared with the rest of Canada. The NDP is criticized as being a party that believes in high taxes. Would the NDP raise taxes?

BM: No. The Conservatives have a plan to cut corporate income tax from 15 per cent to eight per cent and they're about halfway through it now, so our corporate tax rate is now significantly lower than any other jurisdiction's. We're just saying that it doesn't need to go any lower. The government is giving up a billion dollars in revenue that has just been passed on to the public in the form of service cuts. We wouldn't raise corporate taxes, but we wouldn't permit them to fall any more than they already have.

GW: Our readership is primarily young adults. Is there a message that you would like to get out to younger voters?

BM: I would ask younger voters to look at which party is fighting for education, which party is fighting for equality and human rights, which party believes in social justice, and which party believes in protecting the environment. Only the Alberta NDP fits that bill, so I hope that the young voters seriously consider our candidates and our policies.

for faculty-to-student ratio, 20 per cent for the ranking of research impact by measurement of citations per faculty member, and the rest by the university's international status, with five per cent allocated to each category of international students and international faculty members.

Amrhein said that funding is one of the major issues hindering the reputation of Canadian universities, not only when compared to private and well-funded institutions, but also for institutions in the public system.

"The public system in the US has seen a 25 per cent increase and [with] inflation adjustments [Canada has] seen a 21 per cent decrease. That is a very hard difference to overcome ... If you have much richer levels of

funding, you have more professors and there's simply more variety," he said.

Ince explained that the prosperity of the US and their reputation for prestigious and well-funded universities attracts international students and academics alike.

"The sheer scope across subjects, and funding power of US universities speaks for itself. What these tables show is that although they are hugely well-funded, they are spending the money cleverly," Ince said.

Despite a decline in funding, seven Canadian universities were included in the world's best: McGill University placed highest at 21 out of 200. Canada was one of 29 countries represented in the global ranking.

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L'EXPRESS

Main Floor SUB

US schools rank better due to funding: editor

THIS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Martin Ince, contributing editor of THES, explained the methodology of a peer review, which accounts for half the weight of the scores, wherein 1300 academics in 88 countries were surveyed in order to rank universities.

"We believe that peer review, a well-established method in this field, produces a genuine measure of perceived merit. It is balanced by area (Europe, North America, Asia and rest of world) and by subject (science, engineering and IT, bio-medicine, social science, arts and humanities) and the people were giving answers about subjects and areas they knew about," said Ince.

The scores were a culmination of 50 per cent for peer review, 20 per

cent for faculty-to-student ratio, 20 per cent for the ranking of research impact by measurement of citations per faculty member, and the rest by the university's international status, with five per cent allocated to each category of international students and international faculty members.

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HOW THE WEST WAS STYLED

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BAR NONE 2004

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Free Shuttle to Bar None from the Butterdome and back

Bar None is organized by the U of A Agriculture Club and is the largest student-organized dance at the university. Proceeds go to STARS Air Ambulance and the Bar None Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships to students.

COME OUT AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by James Storie and
Philip Head

On 11 November,
Palestinian leader
Yasser Arafat passed
away.

How do you think this
will impact Middle
Eastern politics?



Adam Witt
Science III

Hopefully, they'll have someone in power now who has more vested interest in peace than maintaining an empire.



Geoff Brin
Science I

I've heard that the stock market's looking up and oil is coming down, and I think there will be room for people to move in and capitalize in the transition period.



Ernest Law
Science I

I've heard rumours that he might have been assassinated by Israeli spies—if that's the case, the whole Middle East situation is going to erupt. He was pushing for at least some civility, but with him gone there's going to be a lot of violence.



Chad Morrison
Forestry III

There'll be a significant change, but it'll depend on who comes to power. It doesn't affect me on a day-to-day basis, but I think I'll feel the effects even out here.



EXPENSIVE TEMPTATIONS The pricey treats of a protest held last Wednesday.

Few local media attend bake sale protest

PROTEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our ultimate goal is that when voters go to the polls on 22 November, they will vote to support postsecondary education. Most voters cast their ballot for the party that best reflects their values and beliefs. If we can get the public to acknowledge and consider postsecondary education as one of their top priorities, then they are going to vote with that in mind," said Abboud.

However, few media organizations were present at the bake sale. Despite invitations being sent out to many local news outlets, all of them failed to attend and cover the demonstration.

Debt Sentence organizer Heather Wallace related the difficulty and importance of grabbing media attention so close to a major election.

"We sent out press releases to all of the major local news sources, and we are competing with whatever else is on the agenda for the day. It's about being savvy and knowing what is going on so you can pick a slow media day," said Wallace.

"If the media is not there to cover

the event, you might as well be shouting into the wind."

Although most media ignored the rally and none of the baked goods managed to sell, Abboud maintains that events like this one show the promise of breaking ground and making gains for Alberta students.

"If the media is not there to cover the event, you might as well be shouting into the wind."

HEATHER WALLACE,
DEBT SENTENCE ORGANIZER

"I'm really encouraged to see students participating in the political process and I would love nothing more than to see more student involvement and more students taking this initiative and showing their support for postsecondary education," he said.

Inadequate services available for suicidal youth: researcher

SUICIDE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Barbara Paulson and Robin Everall, professors of educational psychology at the U of A, are researching adolescent suicidal behaviour and trying to determine the best course of treatment.

Paulson explained that suicidal adolescents report great distress in relationships and may receive no support from family or friends, which increases their risk of committing suicide.

According to Paulson, the high rate of suicide is not reflected in society's health expenditures. Inadequate services exist in communities for suicidal youth, and there's a general lack of adolescent psychological services.

"If you look at the 24-and-under group, they tend to be a group that doesn't have financial resources. So, it's very difficult for them to access any resources except the public ones, and the public ones, of course, are pretty restricted in terms of what's available," said Paulson.

"Some of the kids in our study never had any intervention by any mental health professional at all. And then

some who did had very bad experiences because the service wasn't very good."

Despite the fact that suicide is no longer a taboo subject, many misconceptions remain, said Everall, associate chair of educational psychology.

"If you talk about suicide, you're going to make the suicidal person more suicidal—that's a big misconception. ... Another one is that it's only a temporary state. You're only suicidal for an hour, or a day, or a week. That's not true," said Everall.

According to Kunzle, if an individual is worried that a friend is suicidal, asking if they are thinking about suicide can make a difference.

"I think a big thing for people to realize is that asking about it isn't going to make someone feel suicidal," said Kunzle.

"It's not going to put the idea into their head if they're not already thinking about it, and they're already thinking it is going to give them that opportunity to talk about it, which they might not otherwise have done," she explained.

OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Tuesday, 16 November, 2004

Next flu epidemic isn't far off

ONE IN EVERY SIX PEOPLE who inhabit the Earth could soon be dead. Well, maybe not, but that is what some of the more alarming estimates of the effects of the next global flu pandemic are starting to sound like. The more conservative figures at the US centres for disease control state the number between 2.3 million and seven million. Still scary.

The culprit of the upcoming pandemic seems to be strain H5N1, a type of avian flu that seems to be tenaciously recurring in birds in Asia. It has already caused almost two dozen human deaths. And if it isn't bird flu, it could be something else—we're due for an outbreak, and soon. There were three outbreaks in the 20th century (the last in 1968), including the Spanish Flu in 1918 that killed more people than the First World War. Now, world population is much denser and travel is easier, making the spread of disease that much simpler.

Scarier still is the fact that the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued an alert that there isn't enough vaccine to combat the next pandemic, and has gone into meetings with several drug manufacturers to ramp up production. The problem is that, oftentimes, it isn't drug companies' best interests, commercially, to stockpile large amounts of vaccinations, because they might become out of date if the wrong flu strain is identified to become a pandemic.

Of course, panicking over WHO press releases is rather pointless. The WHO may just be using the media spin cycle to force drug companies into preparing for an outbreak that is years or even decades away. Wasteful thinking maybe, but still possible.

Even if there is a massive viral outbreak, getting panicked about it won't change anything. Really, the only thing that can be done to prepare for the viral attack is to make sure that you are as healthy as you possibly can be and to kick any bad health habits you have to make sure your immune system is as strong as possible.

In a sick and twisted way, I find this a blessing in disguise. Now I, and ostensibly most everyone who could improve their bad health habits, have an evil hanging fear to compel them to fix their habits. Really want that donut? Sorry, you're dead. Chocolate binge before bed? That caffeine will kill you. And not in the "Oh, I'll have a heart attack when I'm 50" kind of way, that can always be pushed to the back of your mind, but in the "Next year, I'll get the flu and die" kind of way.

So either put the impending flupocalypse to good use and get healthy—or, if you have healthy already, use it to keep it up—or just keep it out of your mind and move on with your life.

DANIEL KASZOR
Production Editor

Ol' Dirty Bastard won't have to worry about the flu

THIS PAST SATURDAY, the world lost one of the greatest, most creative rappers to ever pick up a microphone. Ol' Dirty Bastard aka ODB aka Dirt McGiffen aka Big Baby Jesus aka Russell Jones, collapsed in his recording studio after complaining of chest pains. Though most probably pass off ODB as a pop curiosity, there was a lot more to the man than wild stunts and running from the law. True, he's better known for poppy work like "Got ya money" or "Ghetto Superstar," but ODB was probably one of the few rappers who can actually fit into the category of musical genius.

That isn't hyperbole either; ODB's work, specifically with the Wu-Tang Clan, is utterly unique among rappers. There was no precursor to ODB's off-kilter, spastic rhymes—which often include rhyming noises with real words—and it's hard to imagine anyone emulating him. And, as one of the original Wu-Tang, he also helped shape rap, for better or worse, into what it is today. He was unmistakable, and, to quote a Wu-Tang song, "nuthin' to fuck with."

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Not having cheerleaders will only hurt teams

In response to "The U of A doesn't need cheerleaders" (4 November), you have to be kidding me. Don't deserve funding? I'd say that they do—and yeah, the rugby team, too. But do you know what? They both do. Taking funding away is a nice slippery slope, and eventually they'll start asking the volleyball team to start funding their own road trips.

Cheerleaders keep the fans interested in the game and keep the fans noisy. Yeah, the heartfelt yelling from the fans helps the players—why do you think there's a "home-court advantage"?

Getting rid of the cheerleaders will only make the games quieter and the fans less rowdy and obnoxious, and that, in the end, is bad for every team involved.

DAN ANDERSON
Editor, Alberta

Berry, the Gateway should apologize to cheerleaders

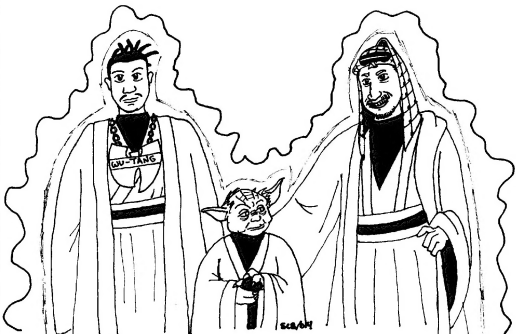
My coach recently forwarded David Berry's article on cheerleading to my team, and let me say, I am extremely offended. I have been cheerleading since I was ten years old, and am now a cheerleader for the University of Manitoba. I just wanted to let Mr Berry know that I in no way respect him.

Although there is such a thing as freedom of speech, he had no right to attack the sport—and yes, I say sport—of cheerleading. I've played many sports over the course of my life, such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, track and field, football, cross-country running, and gymnastics. I chose to further pursue cheerleading because it challenged me more than the other sports, and because I got the greatest fulfillment from it.

Not only is it extremely physically demanding, but also mentally and emotionally. I completely disagree with the stereotype that is associated with this sport and those who further support that stereotype and carry on that stereotype. It is people like Mr Berry who don't let our sport advance, but insult us because they themselves do not understand cheerleading and only base their knowledge off of stereotypes.

Overall, I demand an apology—especially for the comment of "cheerdart." I am an honour student in architecture at the University of Manitoba, one of the leading architecture programs in Canada. If you would like to refer to us as "cheerdarts," the only thing I have to say is that we are an educated part of Canadian society, who pride ourselves in community involvement and actually try to involve ourselves in the world we live in. Unlike Mr Berry, who seems to believe that writing offensive articles will better the world and unify humankind. Berry and the Gateway should apologize to the U of A cheerleading team.

The opinions that were stated are extremely prejudiced, and I'm very surprised that the Gateway would support and post such a juvenile and un-supporting viewpoint on



their website. Glad to see that the U of A has spirit.

ALISSA BAKER
University of Manitoba

(Editor's note: The Gateway has received multiple letters from across Canada in regards to the cheerleading article of 4 November. To find the rest, please go to <http://www.gateway.alberta.ca/view.php?id=321>)

Prusakowski right, but should check his facts

I would like to commend Ross Prusakowski on a well-written and generally accurate attack on Students' Council ("Students' Council is entirely ineffective," 9 November). However, he does make a number of assertions that are either unfair or inaccurate.

First of all, Mr Prusakowski suggests that Students' Council falls short of the ideal of promoting good government. Now, Council ain't perfect, but I'll take the honest brokering that goes on in U-Hall every second Tuesday over the partisan gamesmanship that we see in Ottawa or under the legislature's dome any day of the week.

Next, he calls the removal of attendance requirements for councilors "foolish," claiming that it results in cases like that of arts councilor Chris Laver, who has missed more than ninety per cent of the Council meetings this year. In fact, the old system of attendance requirements created less effective representation, since it took seats that were vacant maybe twenty per cent of the time and replaced them—by kicking out the councilor filling them—with seats that were vacant a hundred per cent of the time. Beyond that, "councilor" Laver generally sends a proxy to take his place at Council meetings, which means that he would have been allowed to keep his seat even when attendance requirements existed.

Third, Mr Prusakowski criticizes Council's penchant for referring controversial motions to committees. Mr Prusakowski can call allowing a committee to carefully consider recommendations rather than having them decided directly by an unwieldy and emotionally charged body an abdication of responsibility; I call it a necessary component of the "good government" he purports to seek.

Last, Mr Prusakowski complains that Council is too deferential to the Students' Union Executive. While this accusation is generally well founded, I take issue with an aspect of the example he raised—that of the "I Heart Alberta Mortarboards" lawn-sign campaign. Council never voted on any appropriation of funds for these signs—they were purchased out of discretionary funds allocated for advocacy activities in the Students' Union's budget. If Mr Prusakowski feels that these signs were a waste of money he should take issue with the Executive Committee's use of the funds allocated for advocacy, not with Council's allocation of funds.

I do not wish, through this letter, to suggest that Council is an effective body, or that Mr Prusakowski was wrong to criticize us—I wish that more students were as angered by Council's ineffectualness. My aim was solely to clear up a few matters such that further criticisms, and discussions of remedy, can occur in proper context.

STEVE SMITH
Business Councilor

Council and Exec should work together

Ross Prusakowski ("Students' Council is entirely ineffective," 9 November) berates Council for the "confidence and power they've given to the Executive." While I agree that Council plays an important role as a check and balance, I also believe that Council and the Executive have the onus to work together on projects that benefit U of A's undergraduate students. I received numerous formal and informal inquiries into the best for Knowledge and the lawn signs, their benefits, and their associated risks. The outdoor concert, while not well attended, served as a means of uniting the University community in our pursuit for greater postsecondary funding. We were also fortunate to receive financial support from the University for the lawn signs.

With regards to the lawn-sign campaign, the Students' Union has received a lot of positive feedback. Several groups throughout Alberta have recognized and embraced the "Universities' Matter" campaign because it uses a positive message to draw attention to postsecondary education. We have received requests from Medicine Hat, Calgary, and even Edmonton, to name

a few. The www.universitiesmatter.com website is present on all the lawn signs and provides insight into the consequences and causes of our underfunding without alienating or intimidating the traditional conservative voter base.

Council has been diligent in reviewing these projects and ensuring the Executive is not arbitrarily spending money. While not every project we pursue will be successful, it is important to remember that both Council and the Executive are dedicated to providing a better university experience for both current and future students.

JORDAN BLATZ
SU President

Kudos to Peppin on pot

As a U of A Alumnus (BEd, BA, MEd, LLB) who obtained all of my degrees only after I had smoked pot, I found it refreshing to read Tim Peppin's straightforward, well-balanced article on the sensible, informed uses of pot ("Marijuana has the power to enlighten," 9 November). It's refreshing because students from my alma mater say something sensible about the subject to directly counteract the hysterical ramblings of the former U of A law professor, now minister for public safety, Anne McClellan, whose most recent hyperbole (see the *National Post*, 30 October) was that pot smokers are "stupid," while grow operations are "a threat to public safety."

The irony of Peppin's comments with regard to Carl Sagan in the context of Ms McClellan's recent ramblings is certainly not lost on me. It is especially ironic in that I had occasion from time to time to share a joint with one who was later to become a close colleague of Ms McClellan's.

Isn't it about that time the generation of baby boomers shed the hypocrisy, came out of the closet and reminded Ms McClellan of a few simple truths—that the war on (some) drugs has been a disaster and we need no more of this nonsense? Maybe my erstwhile professor friend in the law faculty can emulate Pierre Berton and demonstrate to Ms McClellan "how to roll a joint?"

BRIAN FISH
U of A Alumnus (Age 64)

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Journalism class would improve this headline



RAMINI
OSTAD

"However, the English department is not taken very seriously, mostly because it is treated as a hurdle people must jump over in order to get their degree, and once the entry-level class is finished, they don't really need to think about it again. A journalism course could change that."

They would say that the arts are a waste of time—that English should be abolished and the world should communicate in binary patterns.

These are the fanatics who believe they are the popside-bridge-building geniuses of the future and hail *Weird Science* as the most inspiring movie of all time. However, there are many who, despite their science backgrounds, thoroughly enjoy their arts courses. Much of philosophy would not exist without a full understanding of the way our senses work. Conversely, without the publication of science journals, theories may not progress as well as they have. So arts and science are in many ways synonymous.

However, the English department is not taken very seriously, mostly because it is treated as a hurdle people must jump over in order to get their degree, and once the entry-level class is finished, they don't really need to think about it again. A journalism course could change that. It would place a heavier priority on people's ability to express their interests and opinions through a literary medium.

On the more selfish side of the argument, it would also make it a lot easier for those already passionate about

journalism to chase their dreams. Personally, I find it rather discouraging to know that if I want to pursue a career in ridiculing Middle Eastern cola distributors, I would have to move out of the province. Not to mention the relative difficulty involved with getting accepted to programs at UBC or Ryerson. Having at least a starter course in journalism would allow me and my fellow columnists to gain some insight in what it takes, and whether it really is the career path we would like to invest our lives in, instead of forking over thousands of dollars to pursue a whole new province to pursue a career we may decide isn't really for us.

As I said, this is all naive optimism. Ms. Samarasekera may not hold up to her promise—it certainly wouldn't be the first time a person in power has lied in order to sound appealing. She may come into office and leave things just the way they are. Or she may decide the arts program altogether, dismantling the English department and bringing veracity to the escapism that is film studies.

She could do the very opposite of what I am hoping for. I could be very wrong. That would still be a first.

We don't need funerals; we'll be dead anyway



CHLOÉ
FEDRO

Even in the wake of a grave hanger or the revelation of the terrible truth behind the latest mid-term exam, as university students we generally don't think about death as being an imminent threat. We go through life viewing death as a consequence of life, but not thinking of the consequence of death itself.

When we do die, our bodies are scrutinized, pumped full of chemicals and caked with makeup, only to be paraded around in a coffin in the hopes of honouring our life. But is all that really necessary in order to celebrate our memory?

I realize that when somebody dies there's a need for closure. Funerals offer that opportunity through the display of a lifeless version of an otherwise life-like person. But I don't see why a person's body is really necessary for this. The essence of that person is gone, and all that remains is an unfortunate reminder of that in the form of their corpse. Rise is the person you knew is gone forever. All that remains is an empty vessel—a wrinkled piece of flesh in an overpriced box.

I'm disgusted by the concept of embalming. It seems like such a waste of energy to prolong the process of decay. The industry of death promotes embalment and the subsequent viewing of a corpse as a means to show respect to the dead. But I fail to see how the removal of gases and fluids from a body only to be replaced by a highly toxic substance constitutes respect. And to make matters worse, land is used up to store these slowly rotting bodies.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL LU

DEAD WEIGHT We might as well just recycle all those dead bodies.

Whoever thought up the idea of graveyards, anyways? I mean, sure, we need to put the bodies somewhere, but in the innovative world in which we live there must be a more viable and utilitarian solution. Our society has become so accustomed to this method of body disposal that we fail to realize how impractical it really is. I suggest a revolution.

While graveyards do provide a place of quiet reflection to remember the past lives of people who had a particular importance in our lives, there are other ways to honour the dead without allocating large plots of land to them. Since they are no longer a part of the physical world, they shouldn't be taking up so much physical space. Let's just build them a statue or something and remember the dead as a collective group of people.

Bodies are essentially garbage,

and we might as well just dig a big hole and dump them all in the same place. It may seem insensitive, but the human body is nothing more than a vessel that plays host to its living component. Perhaps bodies could be made into something useful such as, say, fertilizer for the benefit of growing crops.

So, in this reflection of the dead and their place of being dead, otherwise known as graveyards, I would like to bring focus back to the extensive waste produced by our society. We exist in a disposable world, where people change cars almost as often as they change their shoes. We produce enough waste in our day-to-day lives that we don't need to produce more once we're dead. As far as I'm concerned, throw my body to the wolves—I certainly have no use for it once I'm dead.

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Canada should get involved with Star Wars

It won't cost us anything and it'll give us a little clout; what's not to like?



SCOTT C. BOURGEOIS

I love Star Wars. Who can forget the legendary Luke Skywalker, whiny farm boy turned Jedi knight? And, of course, there's Han Solo, the rogue scoundrel with a heart of gold. Not to mention Princess Leia, the tough-as-nails, no-nonsense rebel leader. Then there's the granddaddy of them all, the evil Darth Vader—the classic black knight, whose tale of redemption echoes through the ages.

Star Wars is also a wonderfully ill-conceived missile shield developed by an incompetent United States defense department, and you know what? I love it, too.

For those of you unfamiliar with what this system is all about, here's a short primer: the Star Wars system is designed to launch missiles at incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and destroy them before they impact their designated target. In theory, the system is a wonderful means of national security, saving potentially millions of lives from nuclear attack. However, this theory is about as flawless as the theory that the Earth is actually square.

Simply put, the Star Wars system

is about as likely to stop an all-out nuclear attack as magical pixie dust. Incoming ICBMs use chaff, decoys and other counter measures designed specifically to stop anti-missile systems. Actual tests of the system proved its uselessness when, in two out of three tests, it failed to shoot down the real missiles. In the third test, it succeeded in creating a new arms race. The target happened to be in the path of the oncoming missile.

Think of it: if the United States is going to go ahead and create this half-baked missile shield, and will get angry with us if we don't fall in line, we should probably just fall in line.

The other concern with the system is that it will spark a new arms race. Both Russia and China have expressed concern that this "defensive" system might be turned into part of the United States' first-strike strategy. Such a system could potentially render Russia and China's retaliatory powers useless, and neither country wants to leave the United States as an unchecked nuclear power.

So, with all these strokes against it,

why do I love the Star Wars system? Simple: it's a terrible idea that won't cost Canada much of anything. The United States plans to spend as much as \$60 billion on the system, and we only have to put our name on the treaty to be given "protection" under its umbrella.

Think of it: if the United States is going to go ahead and create this half-baked missile shield, and will get angry with us if we don't fall in line, we should probably just fall in line. The political clout we gain with the Bushites could be worth curtailing our pride a little and supporting their "brilliant" scheme.

We say yes to Star Wars, and suddenly the United States might be willing to, say, allow us to sell our medicine over the border. Or maybe they'll ease up on their beef bans. Possibly they'll even lower the tariffs on our softwood lumber. These are all issues that need to be addressed with our southern neighbour, and humouring them about their crap-tactical missile shield may be the key to opening up better relations with their "You're either with us or against us" administration.

So Canada should just suck it up and be the Lando Calrissian of the world. We invite Darth Vader over to dinner, sign his treaty, and hope that our deal doesn't go sour. And if it does, we'll just have to hope that the rest of the world is as forgiving as the Rebel Alliance.

The government shouldn't be funding breasts



SCOTT LIWALL

I'll let a few of you in on a little bit of a secret: I'm a fan of breasts. It's true; for reasons that I am not yet able to fully understand, there is a some sort of mystical allure to that specific region. I don't wish to be rude or insensitive; I'm just stating an undeniable fact about myself.

Believe it or not, however, there is a point to this startling revelation. It would seem that I am not the only one on the planet that shares this affection for the bosom. Whether it's the disgustingly low-cut shirts that are being sold to teenage girls these days or the constant use of sexuality in advertising, it's not hard to see that North Americans are obsessed with physical beauty, particularly that of women.

As a result of this pressure, some women don't feel they live up to the representation of the "ideal" female figure; hence the growth of the cosmetic surgery business here in the western world. Face lifts, tummy tucks and breast implants are becoming big business as more and more women try to bring themselves closer to what the media tells us they're "supposed" to look like. The debate over the health concerns and the ethics of going under the knife to make one more physically attractive has gone on for a long time, and the controversy continues. However, one question that has been largely ignored by the general public is who is paying for all this.

Well, at least in Canada, the answer is that we all are. Procedures such as breast implants, while sometimes performed in private medical clinics, are funded by our healthcare system. Dr David Sion, a plastic surgeon in

Windsor, Ontario, recently explained to the CBC that if someone wanders in to a clinic to get a breast augmentation and the clinic doesn't charge the full cost of the procedure, it's the lucky Canadian taxpayer who subsidizes the operation. Education funding is decreasing, we're buying military equipment that might have well be made of Styrofoam and shoe polish, and now we're funding breast implants. If we're going to be a stupid and defenseless country, we might as well look good doing it, I guess.

If that's not bad enough, we aren't even paying for only Canadians to mutilate—wait, sorry, "enhance"—their bodies in vanity. These clinics are open to any American who wants to come across the border, get the job done and head back home, although one has to wonder what effect that has on customs declarations.

There is logic to having some cosmetic procedures funded by health-

care. Breast reconstruction after cancer can go a long way towards helping a victim cope with their ordeal, and serious back problems can sometimes be helped with breast reduction procedures. These and other procedures like them help with legitimate physical and mental health concerns, and as such should be covered. However, that doesn't mean that Canadian taxpayers should have to pay because someone wants to get rid of a few wrinkles or upgrade their bust size, even if "government-funded breasts" is hilarious to say.

Let's for a moment forget the fact that they may be dangerous and that a lot of times breast implants are just not that attractive—sometimes even a little creepy. The fact is it's your body, and if you want to have cosmetic surgery done to it, fine—go right ahead. But there is no way in hell that the rest of us should have to pay for it. Even we fans have our limits.

refugees would like to believe, even our reigning Liberal party is not the Democrats, nor are the Conservatives the Republicans.

The entire political scene in Canada is shifted to a more socially progressive, economically sensible slant than that of our Pabst-swilling cousins. The potential damage to our own cultural and political climate, if we ever suddenly accepted such a drove of wannabes, would be nigh irreparable. As much as we all may disdain Prime Minister Paul Martin, I doubt the prospect of Prime Minister Hillary Clinton sits well with anyone.

Thankfully, regardless of anyone's opinion on the matter, Immigration Canada will give American political migrants the same non-sensical, over-bureaucratic treatment that everyone gets. Thank God for small miracles, I guess.

JAMES STORRIE

No sack beatings are actually given.

THE BURLAP SACK

The sack beating is an awkward metaphor, this week, as it's going out to the millions of American Democrat turncoat-wannabes who have been threatening to move in droves up north. Let's not get on the wrong track, here: our national identity has typically held our welcoming immigration policy, and one would be loath to come out against one specific group seeking solace in the grand of North.

These Americans, though, are a menace! Yeah, I said it. Our political infrastructure is not designed to handle millions of foreign citizens suddenly showing up, applying for citizenships of their own and voting for their crazy, wacko political parties. As much as our erstwhile American

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I want a real, manly, gay idol



TYSON
KABAN

I'm a bitter homosexual. But can you blame me? I don't have a "Grace" to follow me around the Roost. I've taken up chain smoking and I'm still a virgin. Worst of all, I've only got David Sedaris to back me up.

Maybe I should become a lesbian—they're a pleasant bunch. And just look at who they have in their corner. K d lang made their brand of lust mainstream after appearing on a *Vanity Fair* cover with Cindy Crawford's thighs. Melissa Etheridge inspired lesbian couples to marry, domesticate, and procreate. David Crosby's aging sperm not included. Rosie O'Donnell was last seen catching her breath on the steps of Congress, campaigning for gay adoption and gun registration. And their patron saint, Ellen, is both a positive role model and a welcome alternative to *The Tony Danza Show*.

So where's my gay idol come story? One with a guy who believes more than just "two penises are better than one"? There have never been any positive, universal role models for gay males that are gay and male, to prove that flamers are relevant in Western society.

Not including flamboyant icons like Elton John, Isaac Mizrahi, RuPaul and the blonde from *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, there are no obvious figures in pop culture that disprove the stereotype, or at least make it okay. I'm not proposing a nationwide, phone-

in search, but surely we can't rely on parasites for a solution.

The evident tragedy is that when an impressionable youth starts questioning his sexuality, he has no one to look up to for validation and camaraderie. But I'm sure that after his first episode of *Queer as Folk*, he'll feel normal. So normal, he'll wish he was straight. I know I did.

For some, dressing in drag, experimenting with coke, and engaging in backroom promiscuity is the gay lifestyle—it's certainly the one that's reinforced by countless films, TV shows, and magazines. But is the mainstream really so treacherous that a famous actor should be afraid to appear on the cover of *Q*, saying that it's possible to be successful, well-adjusted and take it up the ass?

But sadly, the gay men who maintain any type of celebrity or recognition continue to disappoint us, either by remaining in the proverbial closet or being forced out of it by the authorities in a public washroom.

I harken back to David Sedaris. He's a best-selling humourist whose acerbic wit has made him a mainstay in literary circles. He embraces his sexuality when he writes about soap operas or his childhood lip, but denounces it when he ridicules the ostentatious aspects of homosexuality by attacking the rainbow flag—he'd prefer it to be a skull and crossbones. He's the perfect balance of a cynical humorist and sympathetic straight.

I should probably just get down on my knees and resort to prayer. I'll ask the Lord that one day I'll be able to open people and see an ordinary man looking straight at me, and know for sure that his eyes are asking me, "Wanna fuck?"

It's time for engineers to come out of the closet

'Geers would be better off with a little less education, a little more action



JOSH
KIERNER

The reason for this discontent? Although my education has been technically sound, like my ugly head, I think it's a bit lopsided. And in the future, I think that the imbalance in an engineer's education—and also in my grill, come to think of it—should be rectified.

First, I think that the faculty should be taking any steps possible to encourage the mixing of engineers with students in other faculties. If that means stapling TI-83s to arts students' foreheads, so be it.

First, I think that the faculty should be taking any steps possible to encourage the mixing of engineers with students in other faculties. If that means stapling TI-83s to arts students' foreheads, so be it. An engineer unable to communicate with people other than his fellow engineers will be about as useful as contraceptives are to 'No-Play JK.

That's why I'm not a huge fan of the engineering sector that's popped up in the northwest corner of campus. Unless you're trolling the electronics beat-off factory that is the Internet, the first key to meeting people is physically seeing other people.

So, maybe the faculty should have

followed chlamydia's lead and spread around the campus a little, instead of sticking all of our glorious sociology-reading-room-crushing, platinum-coated evil machines twelve feet away from each other and linking them up with pedways. This pretty much guarantees the avoidance not only of other people but also of natural light, and helps us engineers avoid melanoma and friendship.

Who knows—maybe if the buildings were more spaced out, Joe Engineer, on his travels about campus, would run into that guy who lives down the street from him or find a nice girl to stalk. At the very worst, Joe Engineer would have to walk more. And that would probably hurt him about as much as a hand job.

Also, the faculty should allow students to take more humanities classes. Of the 150 or so credits that will make up my degree, I will spend six of them taking complementary studies electives.

I think that the slight technical edge lost by cutting out one of our 92 calculus courses would be more than compensated by the perspective that would be gained by taking some more history courses, or the improvement in jump-rope skills resulting from a plays ed course. A broader array of courses would produce a broader-minded engineer.

Basically, my point is this: good mathematicians don't make good engineers—good people who know some math do. It's not that I think our faculty is doing a bad job; it's just that I think I'd be a better engineer if I'd had a little more Nietzsche and a lot more sex.

Put away your scullery maids and pick yourself up a trophy husband



HOLLY
HIGGINS

Forget about love, women of the world: let's find ourselves trophy husbands instead. I'm talking about statuary, good-only-for-looking-at, serving-some-functions-but-mostly-used-for-ornamental-purposes kinds of men.

Four hundred years ago, women would get dressed up in their Sunday finest, get the scullery maids to plait their hair and go prance around local saloons looking for a husband. This was their life goal: find a "good" one, get married and start producing babies. In our current state of affairs, it seems as though we should have progressed substantially.

Education, literacy, critical thinking and reflection have all become a part of most women's lives in North America. Theory would stand to reason that we have achieved great equality in this time period. From now on, and into the future, there will be a turning of the tables—the ability for us to pick out trophy husbands.

That's right, folks: what I am looking for is an entourage of sexy, exotic men who hang around in large groups, following around myself and half a dozen of my most intelligent, driven, sexy, fun girlfriends. Unlike their female counterparts, who favour hockey parties, football fields, mud luncheons and the law library, they will favour the spa, the women-only section of the gym, coffee shops

and chick flicks. You'll see potential husbands hanging around displaying their rippling muscles in way-too-tight clothing, drinking pink drinks out of small glasses, and laughing loudly at every second word that comes out of our mouths. Perfect rows of white teeth are accentuated by deeply tanned skin, and they'll have cute blonde haircuts with matching blue eyes. Or perhaps you prefer curly black hair and clear blue eyes? Whatever your pleasure ladies, there's no doubt a physical match to your liking.

That's right, folks: what I am looking for is an entourage of sexy, exotic men who hang around in large groups, following around myself and half a dozen of my most intelligent, driven, sexy, fun girlfriends.

Even better, once you've selected the lucky man, he becomes your piece of property for life. After you go through the whole actual "marriage" part, you're free to use this tool anyway you'd like. While you go out and climb the corporate ladder, work at refugee camps, run marathons and pursue your PhD, the trophy will happily stay at home and be your domestic toy.

Forget about the gender roles of the past: Mr Holly Higgins is thrilled to keep house, raise children, run the PTA, and work part-time to buy

little luxuries. He's also willing to plan vacations, fix the house, donate money, host the annual family picnic, keep an immaculate garden, and be the envy of all the men and women in the neighbourhood. The trophy husband will do this all without one complaint, one sigh of remorse or thoughts of inequality.

What about a relationship? No need for an actual relationship when you're out conquering the world. The trophy husband listens intently, acts like a friend when necessary and gives you exactly what you require when you require it. No request too large or too small for him.

Us women will laugh in remembrance of the "olden days," when women were subjected to incredible gender differences and an incurable need for love and affection from the male species. As the dominating, strong, courageous creatures we are, we don't need the hassle and nuisances which were once applicable to the rat race called "dating." Over a round of fishbowl margaritas and several heaping platters of "Death by Chocolate," us women of the world will exchange ridiculous stories of how much more difficult our lives were before we were able to objectify "love" and turn it into a useful, functional, reasonable tool.

So ladies, undo your hair, take off your Sunday finest, leave the old-fashioned salons and conquer whatever your Everest is. Let go of the highly Disneyed notion of "Somebody, my prince will come!" and write your own damn ending.

The best part is, you can ride off into the sunset on the white stallion, and whether or not the trophy man comes with on the donkey behind is entirely up to you.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL LEU

HUBBY DEAREST And next, a refreshing backrub, my boytoy.

Eating brains is no way to run an institution of higher learning



GRAHAM
LITNER

High up on the sixth floor of ETLG, the dean of engineering is having a feast on the grey matter of every engineer foolish enough to take six classes a semester. I hope it tastes good, because other than being the makings of a fine delicacy, my brain hasn't been good for much else lately.

Ingesting class after class of electrical circuitry and signals, I've begun feeling gassy and bloated. My taste buds don't work; I can't tell what I'm actually eating anymore. In fact, I'm gobbling lectures and assignments down so fast that hiccups, indigestion and extreme nausea are chronic symptoms. In trying to cram six classes a term down our throats, the engineering department has succeeded in provoking one huge collective tummy ache.

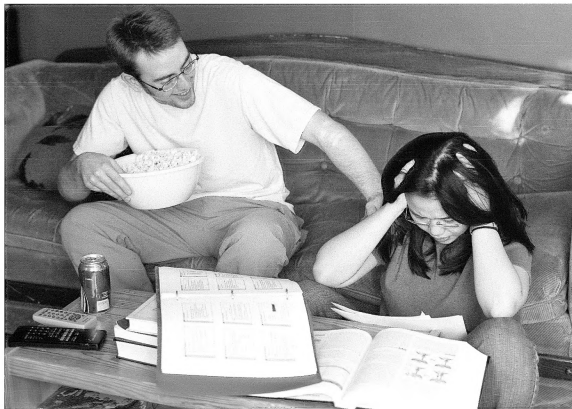
Let's be clear: I don't advocate lighter class loads to allow the average student to "get involved," whatever the heck that means. Those who are going to get involved will do so regardless, and those who love the *Apprentice* and *ER* Thursday-night doubleheader are going to watch even more TV with extra free time. No, I'm hating on this workload for a worthy reason: it's no way to educate someone.

Learning can't take place at a pace like this. Many others across campus invariably encounter the same; in the presence of such a class schedule, edu-

cation becomes industrial information accumulation, which is one step away from cramming. This serves up stress, an ulcer at the age of 21 and minimal knowledge gained as previously-known facts are kicked out to make space for new ones.

Learning can't take place at a pace like this. Many others across campus invariably encounter the same: in the presence of such a class schedule, education becomes industrial information accumulation, which is one step away from cramming.

Education requires mulling over, pondering, contemplating. It calls for tasting, chewing on, enjoying. It does not sit well with engorgement or imposed glutony. Any faculty that hedges six classes on its students has discovered the perfect process for turning minds to mush, and will be duly rewarded with graduates who can simultaneously turn the crank of fabricated knowledge but haven't the faintest grasp of how to synthesize, cognate or imagine outside of a severely restricted box. As my friend told me of his current engineering co-op term, what matters is your method of thinking critically, not the few extra formulas crammed in by



BRAIN FOOD All this work only leads to grads with no real knowledge, to say nothing of zombie deans. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: IRIS TSE

one more class.

A better recipe would be the following: fewer ingredients for better flavour, just as shaking the entire contents of your spice rack into a pot of chili isn't going to win any cook-offs, so too should faculties decide what is most important to inculcate upon students and resist the urge to pack in more besides. Producing courses and professors which stretch the mind and cook up new ideas and perspectives would be a wise investment. Promoting a more engaging style of

lecturing by talking with students instead of at them should be added to the mix.

There are as many variations on the standard learning recipe as there are delightful deviations from Kraft Dinner.

Because right now, students are boiling over from the heat applied by a semester of frantically amassing the facts needed to write six finals come December. The unsuccessful regurgitation of data shot weeks before Christmas is likely to lead to much

vomiting come the New Year, once grades have been posted. The Pepto-Bismol needed to quell such stomach-turning learning will require Dean Lynch to find a new dessert.

Yet I'm sure the faculty can get back in the kitchen and concoct a new entrée of education that is tastier to students. But if tight, in-the-box "thinkers" is the order that faculties want to fill, then they already have the recipe: take one student, mix in six classes, grate, mash and blend until unrecognizable. Serves one dean.

Weather change can happen



NICOLE
TOMLINSON

Face it folks: we're going to pay. We, and the earth, are eventually going to pay big, and it's all because of one of the most tragic elements of the human condition: our anthropocentric blind faith in the infallibility of some of our predictions.

See, a short while ago I saw the movie *The Day After Tomorrow*. I thought it was good, albeit disturbing. Since conversing about movies is a staple of small talk, I've found myself listening to several people say, "Oh yeah, *The Day After Tomorrow*. The special effects were sweet, but, ya know, it just wasn't realistic, dude. That could, like, never happen!" I beg to differ.

Allow me to turn your attention to the ice ages. You know, the periods in time when glaciers covered most of the Earth's surface? For most of Earth's history, it actually had no permanent ice. There had to have been some pretty drastic weather changes to make the transition from no ice to mostly ice possible. And if you're thinking that the ice ages happened thousands of years ago and that the Earth has changed too much for another one to happen today, let me remind you that the Little Ice Age ended only about 150 years ago.

Now think about the hurricanes that recently ravaged the Caribbean basins and Florida. They killed hundreds of people and caused billions of dollars worth of damage. Climatologists are already warning that global warming will bring Florida more frequent

and extreme hurricanes. I'm sure that some of the experiences of the residents of areas struck by class-three hurricanes, losing their homes, belongings and loved ones, parallel the struggles that the characters in *The Day After Tomorrow* faced.

If you're thinking, "Sure, I know about global warming. I know that scientists are saying that the climate is at risk, but even the experts say that the change won't happen that quickly, let alone in my lifetime," then you're probably right, but let me remind you that nothing is certain, even science. Predictions must, by nature, be made based on past experiences: we don't have the data to definitively say what will happen to the Earth because we have never, in the history of mankind, had a planet so polluted, altered and disturbed by human activity.

So next time you decide to grab an excessive amount of napkins to wipe your face after eating an over-packaged hormone-ridden burger at your favourite fast-food joint, or next time you think about buying an eight-cylinder SUV to drive around your urban sprawl, or next time you throw out acid-filled batteries from your extensive collection of electronic gizmos because you just can't bring yourself to buy rechargeable ones—yes, they have been on the market for years now—think about our day after tomorrow.

And really, if you think that you can say with certainty that what happened in the movie could never happen in reality, think about how grossly under-qualified you are to be making that assumption. No one in the history of mankind, despite all our knowledge and technology, has succeeded in that feat.

You can't always predict the weather, baby.

Political spectrum hurts free thinking, polarizes thought and divides us all



ADAM
GAUMONT

The political spectrum has long been the indicator of people's ideological stance; however, due to the ever-growing complexity of today's "global village" of politics and economics, it has become obsolete, and even potentially dangerous.

The main shortcoming of such an indicator is that it's too limiting and restricting: the spectrum is simply not comprehensive or dynamic enough to reflect one's ideologies accurately. More problematic, though, is the fact that it binds people to certain stances.

Spectrum thinking inevitably causes people to embrace their particular positions for the purpose of both self and group identity, and as a consequence, people evaluate issues based on the formula of that position, and not reason alone. In other words, it impedes any independent, objective process of rational analysis on an issue-to-issue basis.

Everyone is equally guilty of such biased, subjective judgment—it's human nature—but that doesn't make it okay. Those who are on the "right" automatically assume the conservative stance on issues, regardless of what the circumstances might be.

Same goes for those who are on the "left": though they're generally more

open-minded with their stances, the liberals, socialists, anarchists, and others are all united on one front: resisting anything that the conservatives believe, or at least taking up a contrary position.

The U of A's own GSR proudly announces that they're "the furthest left on our FM dial"; at the other end of the spectrum, *Edmonton Journal* opinion columnist Lorne Gunter purports to have "The right stuff." Monks like these do not help matters; they serve only to polarize public opinion and erode any sense of reason and objectivity that there was to begin with.

Spectrum thinking inevitably causes people to embrace their particular positions for the purpose of both self and group identity, and as a consequence, people evaluate issues based on the formula of that position, and not reason alone.

Such polarization has dichotomized a country like the United States, where the two-party Republican/Democrat system has divided its citizens to a degree arguably not seen since the Civil War. For a lot of Americans, their vote depends not on what each

candidate's stance is on foreign or domestic policy, but rather whoever best represents their personal, subjective biases. Thus, a gun-totin', gay-bashing redneck will vote for George Bush come hell or high water, not because he'll make a good president, but because that other guy might try to take away his guns.

It's preposterous to think that no matter what the facts and figures are, people will adopt a particular stance based on whether they call themselves liberals, conservatives, or any other such term, and yet this happens without fail.

Some people say, for example, that they're opposed to gay marriage or abortion for no other reason than because that's what their religion has taught them; others adopt left-wing anti-capitalist stances simply because they're left-wing environmentalists.

So forget the political spectrum, for it's not nearly accurate enough to accommodate the number and complexity of issues at hand today. It's time we as a society put reason and objectivity ahead of subjectivity, ignorance, and personal bias.

Simply believing what your group or position is supposed to believe is not loyal or honourable or faithful: it's simply laziness than informing oneself and looking for the truth. It may be the case that most of your beliefs do fall in line with each other and that you are able to locate yourself somewhere on the spectrum, but it should be one's individual beliefs and opinions that determine one's ideological stance, and not the other way around.

SPORTS

sports@gatewayualberta.ca • Tuesday, 16 November, 2004

Golden Bears upset in Hardy Cup



21

20



Player of the game

Huskies running back **Chad Nunweiler** rushed for 163 yards on 28 carries, including 120 yards in the first half alone. He added four receptions for 67 yards in leading the Huskies to victory.

Box Score

First Quarter

06:00 SASK—Braden Suchan 32yd field goal
12:10 SASK—Brad Otten rouge (punt)
15:00 SASK—Braden Suchan 19yd field goal

Second Quarter

08:43 ALB—Beau Filkowski rouge
03:18 ALB—Bryce Coppieters 13yd
touchdown pass from Darryl Salmon (Beau
Filkowski kick)
08:15 ALB—Beau Filkowski 12yd field goal

Fourth Quarter

00:52 SASK—Drew Kendel 9yd touchdown
pass from Mark Feader (Braden Suchan kick)
03:48 ALB—Darryl Salmon 6yd touchdown
run (Beau Filkowski kick)
13:30 SASK—Chad Nunweiler 21yd
touchdown pass from Mark Feader (Braden
Suchan kick)
14:50 ALB—Team safety

Saskatchewan	7	0	0	14	—	21
Alberta	0	1	10	9	—	20

	Sask	Alb
First downs	23	21
Yards rushing	139	111
Yards passing	259	346
Team losses	9	0
Net offense	389	457
Passes made-ried	18-26	16-37
Return yards	112	85
Interceptions-yards from	3-8	0-0
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-1
Sacks by	0	1
Punts-average	9-38.0	8-37.6
Penalties-yards	4-40	9-50
Time of possession	32:40	27:20
Field goals made-ried	2-5	1-2

Individual stats

RUSHING: Saskatchewan—Chad Nunweiler 28-163; Scott Stevens 7-31; Mark Feader 3-5; Jeff Schiemann 1-minus 21; Brad Otten 1-minus 58.
ALBERTA: David Bissett 16-60; Darryl Salmon 8-55; Beau Filkowski 1-minus 4.
PASSING: Saskatchewan—Mark Feader 18-26-0-259; Alberta—Darryl Salmon 16-37-3-346.
RECEIVING: Saskatchewan—Aaron David 6-106; Chad Nunweiler 4-67; Jeff Schiemann 3-38; Jeff Piercy 2-11; Chad Rempel 1-32; Drew Kendel 1-9; Scott Stevens 1-6; Alberta—Andrew Ginter 6-163; Bryce Coppieters 4-51; Dustin Ralph 3-35; David Bissett 1-66; Jason Moss 1-17; Matt Burrows 1-14.

Attendance at Foote Field: 2714



HUSKIES HANG ON Golden Bears defensive back Steven Boyko (24) made this tackle, but the Huskies came out on top in the end on Saturday.

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

With a large crowd and a warm, windless day, conditions seemed perfect for Saturday's Hardy Cup, the Canada West football championship. But unfortunately the result didn't match the setting for the over 2700 Alberta fans in attendance, as the Golden Bears dropped a heart-breaking 21-20 decision to the Saskatchewan Huskies.

"We've had these types of games with Saskatchewan right from two years ago," said Bears head coach Jerry Priesen. "Every game has been within one or two points and this was one of those games. It was no different; it was a classic battle."

While the game may have turned out to be a classic battle, the first half was anything but, as the Huskies dominated the play and the Bears came out tight. The Saskatchewan defense stymied a Bears offense that was without injured all-star running back Jarred Winkler. The Bears failed to complete a pass or earn a first down in the first quarter and rushed for only 31 yards.

On the other side of the game, the Huskies marched the ball up the field with relative ease courtesy of the strong play of running back Chad Nunweiler. He gave the Bears defense fits, racking up 120 yards rushing in the first half alone. However, while Saskatchewan successfully moved the ball, they couldn't convert that into points, and

emerged from the first half with only a 7-1 lead. "[Nunweiler] ran the ball so well in the first half, and we controlled the clock," said Huskies head coach Brian Towriss. "We had to keep our offense on the field, and we did it. Coming out of the first half, it should've been at least 13-1, and had we done that then it may have been a little bit different in the second half."

The second half was much tighter than the first, as the Bears offense awoke and managed to string several drives together on the way to scoring ten points in the third quarter. The defense and special teams also stepped up their play, holding Nunweiler to only eight yards rushing in the third quarter and blocking two field goals in the half. That allowed the Bears to take an 18-14 lead late in the game.

However, the wheels fell off for the Bears in a thrilling, see-saw finish. After the Huskies scored a late touchdown to take a 21-18 lead, the Bears were driving on the Saskatchewan side of the field with just over a minute to play when Salmon threw an interception. Hope was temporarily restored when Nunweiler fumbled the ball on the next play and Alberta recovered, but after a short drive Salmon was picked off again, snuffing out the Bears' chances. A conceded time-killing safety by the Huskies rounded out the scoring.

"Saskatchewan's a good team and they've got a lot of good players out there, but I think we left some points out there and some stupid mistakes

by myself kind of let us down," said Salmon.

But Bears wide receiver Andrew Ginter refused to place any blame on Salmon, who finished the game with 346 passing yards.

"Their defense stepped up, you can't blame Darryl at all," said Ginter. "He got us down there and gave us a chance at the end and their defense got some pressure on him and forced him to make that throw and I guess that's just how it happens sometimes."

The loss was a disappointing end to the season for the Bears, who went 7-1 in the regular season, and also marked their second-straight Hardy Cup loss. While this was unquestionably the Bears' strongest season in two decades, they and many observers were expecting a berth in the national championship game, the Vanier Cup, and falling short left a bitter taste in their mouths.

"Our whole goal was to go to the Vanier this year and anything less is a disappointment. Obviously it's good to be at the top [in the regular season], but what does that mean in the end? Nothing," said Salmon. "You don't want to keep coming to the Hardy Cup and losing, but hopefully we can make that next step next year."

The Huskies will now host their namesakes from Saint Mary's University in the Mitchell Bowl, one of two national semi-finals, on Saturday. The other semi-final, the Uteck Bowl, will see the defending Vanier Cup champion Laurier Rouge et Or face the Laurier Golden Hawks.

Basketball Pandas let two slip away against visiting Dinos

CHRIS OLEARY
Sports Writer

Coming off a pair of disappointing big losses to Saskatchewan to open their Canada West season, the Pandas basketball team hosted the Calgary Dinos this past weekend, looking for their first win of the season and a fresh start they could build upon. Unfortunately, they got neither, as Calgary erased a ten-point Pandas lead on Friday night to win 56-48, and then mauled their hosts 77-52 on Saturday.

The Pandas came out firing on Friday night, building up an early lead, but they became careless with the ball as the game went on and went ice cold, scoring only eight points over a 15-minute stretch that saw their ten-point lead turn into a nine-point deficit. Forward Stephanie Stolk's nine points and six rebounds were both team highs, but weren't enough to lead her team back, as the Dinos were able to hold off a late Pandas run and win by eight. Second-year guard Lindsay Maundrell, who scored 14 points in the win, paced Calgary.

After a sloppy start for both teams on Saturday night, the Pandas were able to settle down and build a seven-point lead behind forward Carly McLennan, who led the team with 14 points and three assists.

As Calgary steadily crept back into the game, it became clear that the Pandas needed to enter halftime with their lead intact. But with five seconds remaining in the first half, a Dinos basket gave them a 31-30 lead that they would not relinquish.

Fifth-year Dinos forward Cory Bekkering was Calgary's best rebounder through the weekend, pulling in seven each night. She said the Dinos did a good job of keeping their focus after Saturday's tight first half.

"At halftime we had a little talk and said, 'Let's either do this or we're going to get kicked here,' because it was close," she said. "We made a decision to play as a team instead of like five individuals."

The halftime pep-talk worked, as the game's second half played out like a magnified version of everything that went wrong for the Pandas on Friday: seemingly endless turnovers and Calgary's hot-handed shooters getting



NOT ENOUGH Pandas guard Ashley Wigg (7) takes a shot against the Dinos.

even hotter. Fourth-year Dinos point guard Tanya Hautala connected on three of four three-point shots as part of her 28-point performance that blew the game wide open.

A visibly dejected Trix Baker suggested that her players wilted during Calgary's dominant second-half performance on Saturday.

"[Calgary] got hot, sure, but they got hot because we'd been in their face the whole weekend, and then we just stopped doing that," she said. "We had a total letdown and it was really disappointing."

If it's any consolation to Baker and the Pandas, every other team in the conference is likely to be

haunted by the tandem of Maundrell and Hautala as the season progresses. The duo combined for 46 of Calgary's 77 points Saturday night, and posed the same problems for the defending national champion UBC Thunderbirds last weekend, when the Dinos beat a team that was dominant in the Canada West division last season.

"Maundrell had her way with us; she did whatever she wanted," Baker said of Calgary's star forward. She also wasn't surprised by Hautala's big game Saturday after seeing her struggle from the field on Friday. "She had four points [in Friday's win]; she wasn't happy with that because she's a 25-a-game type player."

GATEWAY PHOTO Run, don't walk, to our meetings Fridays at 4pm in 3-04 SUB



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SWEPT AWAY A team from the U of A Competitive Curling Club played Team Kevin Martin last Wednesday.

URS 18

Golden Bears win CIS cross-country bronze

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

The Golden Bears cross-country team ran their way to a second-straight bronze medal this past weekend at the CIS championships in Guelph on Saturday.

Led by an eighth-place finish by veteran runner Robbie Nissen, the Bears, tied for the fourth-place ranking in the country going into race, placed four of their runners in the top 20. Sean Macdonald finished 58th in the 10km race to round out the Bears' scoring, as they finished with 114 points overall to claim third place. That was also good enough for the Bears to reclaim the Canada West championship.

"The men did what I expected," said Alberta head coach Georgeette Reed. "The guys really stepped up and proved that they weren't getting the respect they deserved."

The Windsor Lancers ran away with the title, their second in a row, as all of their top five runners—only five from each team counted towards the team's score—placed in the top 20, including all of the top-three racers. They scored only 32 points overall. The host Guelph Gryphons won silver with 88 points as all of their scoring runners finished in the top 30.

On the women's side, the Pandas also had a strong race, finishing ninth after not being ranked in the top ten heading into the weekend.

They were led by veteran Lindsay Acheson, the only returnee from last year's eighth-place team, who finished tenth with a time of 18:08.8 on the

5km course. Tara Whitten was 51st, finishing nearly a minute later, and the remaining Pandas finished within 15 seconds of her. Their total of 242 points was good enough for ninth place in the 17-team field.

"The girls all had personal bests, so that's the best you can expect," said Reed, who saw her women's team drop one spot from last year's eighth-place finish. "We would've liked to finish higher, but there was tough competition, so that was a good result."

The Dalhousie Tigers won the gold, their first ever, with 59 points. The Gryphons, like their male counterparts, took silver with 84 points, while the Calgary Dinos earned bronze medals with 79 points.

Acheson, Nissen and Bear Adrian Lambert were all fast enough to be named All-Canadians.

HOW THEY DID

Bears individual results (10km):

Robbie Nissen—8th (35:01)
Adrian Lambert—14th (32:03.1)
Mike Metcalfe—19th (32:11)
Paul Tichelaar—19th (32:28.2)
Sean Macdonald—58th (35:58.8)
Geoff Ulrich—81st (35:34.4)

Pandas individual results (5km):

Lindsay Acheson—10th (18:08.8)
Tara Whitten—51st (19:06.7)
Kris Baker—55th (19:09.9)
Jenny Heddon—60th (19:15.2)
Terra Manco—66th (19:21.4)

Our cheer team deserves your respect



ROBIN
COLLUM

Sports
Commentary

their determination, commitment, and enthusiasm, we all owe them our respect.

And to our credit, most of the time they receive it. It's rare to hear anyone bashing Pandas soccer, or the water polo club. But somehow, it's seen as acceptable for students—and society in general—to treat members of our cheer team differently.

sure if you asked them, they'd settle for not being mocked. Too often, they don't even get that much.

Maybe it's because cheerleaders are most visible on campus when they're on the sidelines of another sport. Most people don't see them when they're competing, with impressive routines full of gymnastics and stunts.

Or perhaps it's that the rest of us are rebelling against the images of cheerleaders that we've been bombarded with in teen movies. The movie cheerleader is gorgeous and popular, and her life is devoid of those embarrassments and disappointments that plagued the rest of us through high school; no wonder everybody hates her. In reality, of course, cheerleaders' lives are as messy as anyone else's, but the image has stuck. So we seek revenge against that too-perfect pop-culture icon by making fun of the real thing.

Whatever it is, there are those on campus who buck the cheer-bashing trend. After the athletics department handed down an ultimatum stating that the ambassadors could cheer at all U of A games (something their competition schedule doesn't allow them to do) or none, Bears football head coach Jerry Friesen bought tickets for the entire team to come see his team play anyway. He obviously thinks they have value to the University. So the cheer team isn't without supporters on campus; it's just too bad that we're so outnumbered.

The U of A cheer team works just as hard as any other athletics club on campus. They deserve just as much respect. So next time you find yourself about to crack a joke about the cheer team, ask yourself: "Would I say this about the rugby club?" If the answer is no, then keep it to yourself.

While any member of the cheer team would jump (or handspring) at the chance to not be constantly fundraising, I'm sure if you asked them, they'd settle for not being mocked.

This is a segment of the student population that is habitually insulted, made the butt of jokes, and subjected to ridiculously unfair stereotypes. They are portrayed as promiscuous, vapid, and bitchy. And this is considered to be completely socially acceptable. Making fun of the U of A judo club would be politically incorrect, but no one sees a problem with making fun of cheer.

Now, I don't think the cheer team should receive funding from the athletics department. Giving money to a non-varsity club, of any variety, can't be justified while there are still unfunded Pandas and Bears teams.

But money isn't everything. So while any member of the cheer team would jump (or handspring) at the chance to not be constantly fundraising, I'm

These are widely disparate sports, but the athletes who participate in them have plenty in common. They all make enormous sacrifices in order to excel at both academics and athletics. They commit huge amounts of time and energy to practice and competition. They arrange their studying and social lives around their training. They practice for hours each week. Their profs don't give them any special treatment, and they do just as much homework as everyone else. And even after having tried out, many of them have to pay to participate on their teams; even the varsity athletes have to fundraise for their sports.

In return, the athletes get the satisfaction of participating in something that they love. They should get something from the rest of us, though. Even if you don't follow sports on campus, you owe the athletes something: for

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JEFFREY GREENAULT

MANY HAPPY RETURNS Alberta's tennis teams romped at the Western Collegiate Championship.

SPORTS SHORTS

Women's Hockey

The top-ranked Pandas (8-0) are now undefeated in 89 games against CIS competition after two road wins over the Regina Cougars (4-3-1). But it didn't come easily for them. They trailed the Cougars 3-2 with only three minutes remaining in Saturday night's game, before forward Danielle Bourgeois scored her second and third goals of the game to give the Pandas a 4-3 win.

Sunday afternoon they trailed again, this time 1-0 after the first period. But Alberta bounced back with four unanswered goals, including three on the power play, to claim a 4-1 victory. The Pandas took seven penalties to the Cougars' six, but didn't allow Regina to score on any of their power-play opportunities. Bourgeois had two assists in the game, while forward Tarin Podloski had a goal and an assist.

Men's Hockey

Alberta came out on top with a pair of shutouts as the top two teams in the country met over the weekend in Saskatoon. The top-ranked Golden Bears (9-1) beat the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies (7-2-1) 3-0 on Friday, led by a pair of goals from forward Jonathan Hobson. Centre Tyler Shyunka had a goal and an assist in the game. The following night, forward Ben Thomson scored a first-period power-play goal to give the Bears a 1-0 win. Goaltender Dustin Schwartz made 61 saves over the two games to earn the shutouts.

Men's Volleyball

The top-ranked Golden Bears (5-1) joined their hockey counterparts with a perfect weekend, beating the fourth-

ranked Calgary Dinos (1-3) on both Friday and Saturday nights. Friday, the Bears came away with a tight four-set win (26-24, 22-25, 25-23, 23-22). Outside Nicholas Gundy led the Bears with 15 kills in the match.

Cundy again led the Bears on Saturday, with 12 kills in a straight-set win over the Dinos (25-22, 25-16, 25-21).

Women's Volleyball

The Pandas (4-2) put their top CIS ranking in jeopardy over the weekend with two losses to the second-ranked Calgary Dinos (6-0). Friday, they were defeated in five sets (25-14, 24-26, 25-19, 20-25, 15-12). Left side Tawana Wardlaw led the Pandas with 18 kills.

Saturday, fellow left side Chelsea Grimson was Alberta's kill leader, with 15, but the Pandas suffered another 3-2 loss (15-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-23, 15-9).

Men's Basketball

The Golden Bears (1-1) took a week off from Canada West play to head down to Arizona for a pair of exhibition matches against NCAA Division I teams. Unfortunately for the Canadian squad, they found themselves on the tail end of two lopsided scores. Thursday, they lost 93-47 to the Arizona State Sun Devils. Their offensive production improved on Friday, but they still lost by 40 points, falling 107-67 to the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks.

The Calgary Dinos (0-2) also travelled south to face NCAA Division I competition, and suffered a similar fate. They lost 103-52 to the Montana State Bobcats on Thursday, and 86-52 to the Brigham Young Cougars on Friday.

Tennis

The U of A won handily at the Western Collegiate Championship over the weekend at the Saville Sports Centre.

The Pandas and Golden Bears both had their way with the visiting Calgary Dinos and UBC Thunderbirds. Friday, both squads started off by winning six of nine matches against the T-Birds.

The Bears split their six singles matches with UBC, but won all three doubles matches to claim overall victory. The Pandas took a different path to victory, winning five of six singles matches but only one of three doubles matches.

Sunday, the Alberta squads produced even better results, winning every match against the Dinos. Golden Bear Richard Mewesidge suffered Alberta's only set loss of the day, but he still managed to beat Davin Pantuso of the Dinos in three sets (6-4, 6-7, 4-0).

The Pandas had an even easier time against Calgary, as none of them lost more than two games in any set in their six singles matches. They also had their way with the Dinos in the three doubles matches, with the closest being an 8-4 win by Lindsay Keogh and Natalie Belair over Calgary's Kelly Gordon and Sonia Kowalewicz. Ola Weber and Ingrid McKibbin of the Pandas beat Dinos Erna Mujagic and Kristen Vinke 8-1.

Weber and McKibbin led the Pandas by winning all four of their matches (two doubles, both together, and two singles). Dave Warren and Colin Priestner won all four of their matches for the Bears, while Mewesidge won all three of his.

The three-school tournament was an unofficial western Canadian championship, as tennis is not a CIS sport. The Alberta and Calgary squads compete against American teams in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, with their season beginning in the winter term.

Men's Soccer

The Victoria Vikes, who ended the season of the defending champion Golden Bears in the Canada West semi-final, beat the McGill Redmen 3-1 in



MIKE OTTO

COMING UP SHORT The Pandas lost two close matches to the Calgary Dinos.

Montréal to win the CIS championship.

The Redmen, who had an automatic berth in the tournament as hosts, were attempting to become the only team in CIS history to win a gold medal after failing to make their conference playoffs.


Women's Soccer

Montréal was also the site of the men's CIS championships, and like on the women's side, the lone Canada West representative came out on top. In their first appearance at the CIS champion-

ships in their four-year existence, the Trinity Western Spartans claimed the gold medal with a come-from-behind 3-2 win over the McGill Martlets in a shootout in Montréal on Sunday.


The Spartans were down 2-0 at the half, but tied the game in injury time to force overtime. After two scoreless 15-minute extra frames, Trinity Western won a shootout 2-0 to complete their comeback and claim gold.

This marks the fifth consecutive year that the Martlets have won the silver medal at the national championships.



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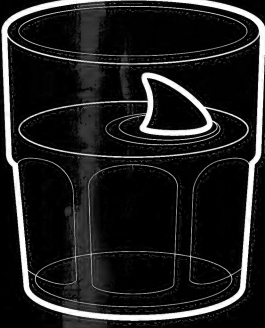
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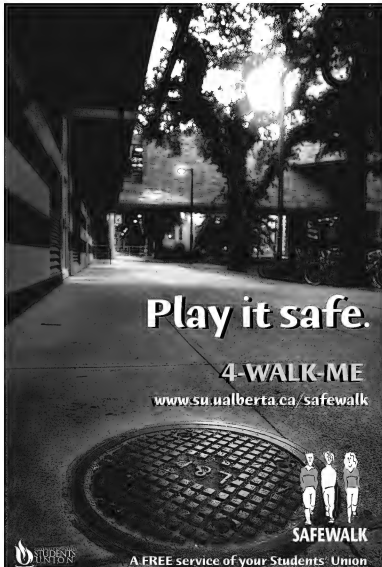
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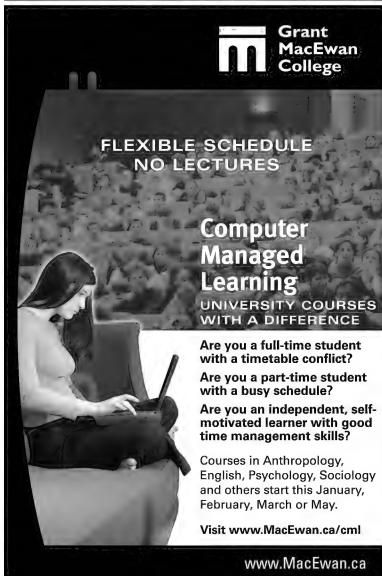


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THE STATS PAGE

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings
Mountain Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	10	9	1	0	45	15	18
Calgary	10	4	4	2	34	24	10
UBC	10	0	7	3	25	47	3
Lethbridge	10	1	9	0	25	68	2

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Manitoba	10	7	1	2	44	20	16
Saskatchewan	10	7	2	1	42	27	15
Regina	12	3	7	2	32	36	8

Results

Friday	Saturday
Alberta 3 Saskatchewan 0	Alberta 1 Saskatchewan 0
Manitoba 6 UBC 2	Manitoba 3 UBC 3
Regina 0 Calgary 2	Regina 1 Calgary 5

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	6. Manitoba (7)
2. Saskatchewan (2)	7. St Francis Xavier (5)
3. Lakehead (4)	8. Saint Mary's (9)
4. UNB (3)	9. McGill (NR)
5. Western (6)	10. UQTR (8)

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	8	8	0	0	45	9	16
Regina	8	4	3	1	28	24	9
Lethbridge	8	2	3	3	20	31	7
Manitoba	6	2	3	1	13	21	5
Saskatchewan	8	2	5	1	19	30	5
UBC	6	1	3	2	11	21	4

Results

Friday	Saturday
UBC 4 Lethbridge 4	UBC 0 Lethbridge 0
Sask 0 Manitoba 4	Sask 4 Manitoba 3
	Alberta 4 Regina 3

Sunday

Alberta 4 Regina 1

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	4	3	1	302	248	6
Calgary	4	3	1	247	226	6
Lethbridge	4	1	3	268	313	2
Alberta	4	0	4	204	275	0

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Simon Fraser	4	4	0	301	198	8
Victoria	4	4	0	262	224	8
UBC	4	1	3	249	252	2
Trinity Western	4	0	4	211	308	0

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Winnipeg	4	4	0	310	232	8
Regina	4	2	2	229	203	4
Manitoba	2	0	2	151	174	0
Brandon	2	0	2	67	148	0

Results

Wednesday	Thursday
Manitoba 67 Winnipeg 84	Simon Fraser 60 UBC 54
Friday	Saturday
Victoria 70 TWU 67	UBC 52 Simon Fraser 59
Sask 83 Lethbridge 91	Sask 77 Lethbridge 53
Calgary 56 Alberta 48	Calgary 77 Alberta 52
Brandon 31 Regina 70	Victoria 56 TWU 52
Winnipeg 90 Manitoba 84	Brandon 36 Regina 78

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
Calgary	6	6	0	18	7	12
UBC	5	5	0	15	2	10
Alberta	6	4	2	16	8	8
Regina	5	4	1	12	6	8
Winnipeg	6	4	2	14	12	8
Manitoba	6	2	4	10	12	4
TWU	6	2	4	10	15	4
Saskatchewan	6	0	6	1	18	0
Simon Fraser	8	0	8	8	24	0

Results

Friday	Saturday
Alberta 2 Calgary 3	Alberta 2 Calgary 3
Manitoba 3 Sask 0	Manitoba 3 Sask 0
TWU 1 Winnipeg 3	TWU 2 Winnipeg 3
	Regina 3 SFU 1

Sunday

Regina 3 SFU 1

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	T6. Montréal (5)
2. Calgary (2)	T6. Laval (9)
3. UBC (3)	T8. Western (10)
4. Sherbrooke (4)	9. Toronto (6)
5. Winnipeg (7)	10. Trinity Western (8)

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
Alberta	6	5	1	17	4	10
TWU	4	3	1	10	4	6
Saskatchewan	4	3	1	10	6	6
UBC	4	3	1	9	6	6
Winnipeg	4	2	2	7	9	4
Calgary	4	1	3	4	10	2
Regina	6	1	5	6	16	2
Manitoba	4	0	4	4	12	0

Results

Friday	Saturday
Alberta 3 Calgary 1	Alberta 3 Calgary 0
Manitoba 1 Sask 3	Manitoba 0 Sask 3
TWU 3 Winnipeg 0	TWU 3 Winnipeg 1
	UBC 3 Regina 0

Sunday

UBC 3 Regina 1

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	4	3	1	313	281	6
Alberta	2	1	1	130	139	2
Calgary	2	0	2	116	143	0
Lethbridge	4	0	4	283	330	0

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
UBC	4	4	0	304	259	8
Trinity Western	2	2	0	161	150	4
Victoria	4	2	2	298	290	4
Simon Fraser	2	0	2	140	153	0

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Manitoba	2	2	0	140	133	4
Regina	2	1	1	170	166	2
Brandon	2	1	1	166	170	2
Winnipeg	2	0	2	133	140	0

Results

Wednesday	Thursday
Manitoba 65 Winnipeg 62	Simon Fraser 63 UBC 72
Friday	Saturday
Victoria 75 TWU 82	UBC 81 Simon Fraser 77
Sask 77 Lethbridge 62	Victoria 75 TWU 79
Brandon 83 Regina 91	Sask 77 Lethbridge 89
Winnipeg 71 Manitoba 75	Brandon 83 Regina 79



Avi Lewis wants your hearts, minds and eyeballs

Activist/director won't rest until he's shared alternatives for globalization with the world

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

Avi Lewis—political activist and former host of *The New Music and Counterspin*—was tired of talking about alternatives for globalization. So, he went out and found himself one.

The result is *The Take*, Lewis' new documentary. Written by fellow activist/wife Naomi Klein, the movie tells the story of a group of factory workers in Argentina giving the world a real alternative to globalization.

Naomi and I believe passionately in the power of the specific example to push the debate forward," says Lewis from Edmonton's Hotel Macdonald. "The thing about globalization is that it transforms people's lives and we were missing that in the debate. We wanted to find a really concrete, specific story—a human story of a place where people are creating another type of local economy—and bring people into that world so that we can have a different kind of conversation about globalization and its effects."

The movie follows the story of the workers of the Forja auto parts factory—victims of Argentina's economic collapse in the late '90s—as they try to get the factory up and running again. This time, though, the workers are their own bosses, and they're building businesses that will work with the community.

What amazes Lewis the most about this movement is the fact that big social change isn't coming from ideologies or doctrines—it's coming from real people, trying to find solutions to real problems.

"[These people] aren't 'lefties.' I find that quite inspiring, because it's a movement that's not coming from a set ideology or a Marxist dogma and is trying to impose that on the world. They're people: formerly middle-class people who aren't particularly political, who are struggling to get their jobs back and in the process of struggling are becoming politicized," he says excitedly.

Another thing he came to appreciate about the workers and the movement in general was the strong sense of togetherness that was developing around it.

"They're finding a sense of community and they're doing what might be the most radical thing of all, which is talking to their neighbours

and learning to struggle together," says Lewis with a proud smile.

"What they're realizing is the fundamental recognition of all progressive movements everywhere: our fates are intertwined. It's not about looking out for number one; that's not going to help all of us," he adds.

Despite the fact the word "idealistic" has been used to describe the film in reviews wherever it's been played, Lewis remains grounded about what the movement means and what it might do.

"What they're realizing is the fundamental recognition of all progressive movements everywhere: our fates are intertwined. It's not about looking out for number one; that's not going to help all of us."

AVI LEWIS, DIRECTOR, *THE TAKE*

"I'm not saying this is the way the world has to run; this is an alternative, not the alternative. They can't compete against a multinational corporation, and in fact that's exactly the point," he says.

"The multinational model, where companies touch down wherever on the planet they can find the cheapest labour and the lowest environmental regulations, such as much out of the local economy in the shortest time possible and then fly off to somewhere else—that's unsustainable."

Because he wants to get people talking about globalization and the alternatives, Lewis has been working tirelessly to get his message out to the public, and he's not going to rest anytime soon, despite what it's done to his pocketbook.

"Until I've got it in front of as many hearts and minds and pairs of eyeballs as I possibly can all over the world, I'm not going to rest," he says, before adding with a laugh, "And then at some point, I'm going to have to get a real job, because I'm totally broke."

Documentary suffers from mistaken reality

The Take

Directed by Avi Lewis
Written by Naomi Klein
Gamelco Theatre
Now Playing

JEREMY SHRAGGE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Argentina is, by any reasonable standard, an economic and political basketcase. In December 2001, with its economy in a four-year stupor, Argentina defaulted on \$140 billion US in foreign debt. When the dust—along with the rioting and looting—settled, the government was in tatters, 25 citizens lay dead, half the population was impoverished, and nearly one out of every five people was unemployed.

How did this happen in a nation that in the 1930s was as wealthy as France, and that during the boom of the mid-1990s was considered to be an economic miracle? *The Take*, a new documentary by Canadian "activist journalists" Avi Lewis (CBC's *Counterspin*) and Naomi Klein (No Logo) proffers some answers, as well as one intriguing solution.

Many observers, including Lewis and Klein, believe that Argentina is but another hapless victim of globalization's diabolical march, its working class ravaged by the wanton degeneracy of multinational corporate avarice. With their thesis and camera crew in tow, the husband-and-wife team descended into the chaos of South America's second-largest country to document the story of Forja St. Martin, just one of many Argentine manufacturing plants belonging to the movement of reoccupied factories.

The concept is simple: owed millions of pesos in back wages, the employees of nearly 200 bankrupt or defunct companies, representing thousands of workers, have given up on their former employers and resumed production of their goods and services—in most cases by illegally occupying the companies' premises. This, say Klein and Lewis, is one potential antidote to the malignant vermin of globalization.

The struggle of the Forja St. Martin workers to get first justice and then—when that fails—legislative support for the expropriation of their erstwhile place of employment is highly compelling.

Although it is at times excessively maudlin, the

documentary magnificently delivers the tension, hopelessness, frustration, anger, sadness, dignity, indignity and, finally, optimism that are fundamental to the workers' experience. It is difficult not to empathize with these folk.

The Take has all the ingredients of being a great film: story, characters, script, direction, editing, photography—even the soundtrack makes it memorable. The film, however, does have one defect: its aforementioned thesis.

Naomi Klein's obsession with globalization is as pathological as Michael Moore's loathing for George W. Bush, and it nearly ruins the portrayal of what is otherwise a gripping story. Good journalists thought they may be, and Klein and Lewis are lousy historians and dreadful economists. There is little dispute that Argentina and its people have been violated in a most indecent manner. What is of considerable debate, however, is the identity of those responsible.

The film's creators imply that the perpetrators were multinational corporations enabled by former President Carlos Menem's free-market policies and abetted by the heinous International Monetary Fund (IMF). The reality is far from this simple or convenient.

Throughout its history, Argentina has been plagued by corruption, greed and economic mismanagement that would make the executives at Enron blush. Klein and Lewis' suggestion is that this former military dictatorship went—seemingly overnight—from a prosperous, blissful workers' paradise under Juan Peron (1946–55) to a pillaged, privatized, corporate welfare state under Menem (1989–1999). Equally preposterous is their implication that the IMF is somehow to blame for Argentina's dire straits. The IMF is responsible for one thing: generously providing loans to successive Argentine governments to pay off their baying creditors.

What Klein and Lewis cannot seem to grasp is the simple fact that the Argentine government bankrupted itself with what the *Washington Post* described as "runaway government spending, excessive borrowing" and the crippling effects of an artificially inflated currency.

The Take is worth watching because the story it tells is terribly moving and presented in a fashion that is hard on neither the eyes nor the heart. It is, however, a pity that the film's creators have such a difficult time distilling historical, economic and political fact from fiction.



Wiggly plot, wiggly bits

After the *Sunset* a frustratingly nonsensical mish-mash of Hayek T&A and pseudo-suspense

After the Sunset

Directed by Brett Ratner

Starring Pierce Brosnan, Salma Hayek, Woody Harrelson and Don Cheadle
Now Playing

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

Even with Pierce Brosnan's charm, Salma Hayek's talent and a tropical island, *After the Sunset* is laugh-out-loud awful.

Featuring a weaving plot, unbelievable characters and cardboard dialogue—not to mention a fixation on Salma Hayek's wiggly bits—the movie is an insult to any adult with an IQ within the normal range.

After two high-achiever thieves—Lola (Hayek) and Max (Brosnan)—carry out what would be their last jewel heist, they settle down on a tropical island.

But it's painfully obvious from the start that Max isn't quite ready to settle down yet.

Melodious FBI cop Stanley P. Lloyd (Woody Harrelson) shows up at the couple's island home in an attempt to finally nail Max, after failing to bag him during the last heist.

But in a strange twist, the hapless cop and brilliant jewel thief become buddies, fishing together and greasing each other up with sunscreen.

The film gleans a whole bunch of these unpredictable and unexplained plot twists together, including Stanley's unbelievable fishing with a local island cop who seems utterly disgusted by him in one scene, but wines and dines him in the next.

The entire movie, in fact, is a mess of random scene changes and unexplained subplots tangled together like mangled palm fronds after a

hurricane.

The result is more or less an hour-and-a-half long mash of drunken buddy-buddy scenes with Harrelson and Brosnan, steamy love scenes with Brosnan and Hayek and the bizarre romantic interest between the island cop and Harrelson.

Weaving in and out of comedy, action-suspense and romantic drama, *After the Sunset* is a film that is clumsy from start to finish.

And it fails to be entertaining, really, outside of the rare hilarious moments when things are so very bad that if you haven't already exited the theatre in frustration, you'll be raucously pointing and laughing at the screen. There is no suspense, there is no intrigue, there is no compelling plot, and there is no direction.

There is, however, plenty of T&A. The first half of the film's gratuitous shots of Hayek's breasts is nothing less than ogling; the camera pans her body like the eyes of a horny teenager.

And just as the plot is lazy, so too is director, Brett Ratner's, eye. Ratner has complete disregard for visual continuity; in one scene Brosnan has a week's worth of facial growth, and in another scene, mere moments later, he is clean-shaven.

The movie's problems—its laziness and general lack of focus—would suggest it's just the slapdash product of greedy marketers with the sole goal of baiting North American moviegoers to the theatres to buy \$12 tubs of popcorn.

But this kind of marketing-driven approach fails to create art. As a result, films like *After the Sunset* are produced and reproduced, but are instantly forgettable.

Salma Hayek's "wiggly bits," however...



Offsides don't need pimp style to party

Hip-hop outfit prefer life's struggles to cars and cash in their rhymes

The Offsides

with Tru-Paz and Mood Ruff
Sidelock Café
Tuesday, 16 November at 8pm

NAVIN JAGASIA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Nowadays, mainstream rap is mostly about expensive cars, shiny jewelry, and gang bangers.

While many feel that image is what most listeners will buy into, occasionally you get the courageous few willing to sidestep conventional attitudes in favour of something different. In a lot of ways, Montréal-based rap group The Offsides try to do just that—staying true to the roots of hip hop by rapping about their personal lifestyles and struggles.

"We don't rap about cars and girls because that isn't who we are," says the group's MC Bailey.

"We are about creativity and the artistic aspect. We are educated and business minded, and we get the skills to throw down a party."

Their style stems from, but isn't confined to, the East-Coast sound, with

close similarities to Talib Kweli and a hint of Kanye West. But the group's creative inspiration comes from artists such as Jay-Z, Nas, and Eminem, because of their unique attitudes about work/life.

"But we have our own Offsides style as well," claims Bailey, who describes a typical Offsides show as a mix of tempos and style, courtesy of the group's three MCs—Bailey, Lowkey, and Malicious—and their DJ, DR ONE, who is a "master of scratching." "We speed it up and get the crowd moving and we slow it down to get the crowd thinking. Sometimes we just kick the beat cold and rap without music, and that really pumps everyone up," says Bailey of The Offsides' shows.

But as far as describing The Offsides' style, Bailey says that nothing captures the group better than their favorite track off their newest LP, *Foul Language*. The song is "Motivation," a track that Bailey says gives the real impression of what The Offsides are about as a group.

Though Bailey and his bandmates aren't thugs from the hood, they have

had their share of struggle—trying to make it in the diminutive Canadian rap market since 2000.

Citing instances of discrimination and jealousy, Bailey says obstacles only helped the group stay motivated to work hard.

"We have a long way to go, and we know what we have to do. We are confident we got the skills and we hope people become fans," he says.

But like a lot of budding artists who are still tied to the underground scene, popularity is both a blessing and threat to the future of their careers.

"In an interview in Montréal I was asked about piracy, and the interviewer did a quick search and found a lot of our songs on the Internet. Even though I was happy people are listening to our songs, and we are gaining popularity, we need people to buy our album because that's the only way we can stay alive."

And Offside record buyers have the assurance these guys will be putting the money they earn off of CD royalties to a good use—or at least they won't be blowing it all on pimped rides and bling.



Various Artists

Close Harmony: A History of Southern Gospel Music Volume 1 (1920-1955)
Dulcote
www.sgma.org

ADAM GAUMONT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In the spirit of all-encompassing musical projects such as Ken Burns' *Jazz* and Martin Scorsese's *Blues* comes *Close Harmony: A History of Southern Gospel Music*, the first in a set of musical compilations based on a book of the same name.

This CD, however, is completely unlike listening to *Jazz* or *Blues*, which offered the scratchy, ghost-like recordings of Robert Johnson or the unmistakably powerful trumpeting of Louis Armstrong. Listening to the "classic" gospel numbers on *Close Harmony* is a near-impossible undertaking.

Admittedly, the primary function of gospel music is not to get one's booty shakin', but rather to praise JC. That said, this particular variety of early gospel, which invariably features a

handful of white people who sing in multiple octaves and play various string-based instruments (read: corny folk music), is unapologetic to all but the most rabid devotees.

Today's listeners may recognize tunes such as "I've Found a Hiding Place" and "Swing Down, Chariot," but for the most part it is difficult to understand this CD's appeal to the secular university demographic. Though the accompanying booklet is exhaustively researched and historically relevant, the album itself offers some of the worst music that white people have ever produced, and that's saying a lot. Those looking for some soul-stirring, inspirational music for a Sunday afternoon are advised to look elsewhere without hesitation.

It's time to WISE up...

Show the Government that it's Time to Wise Up!

Join the U of A Students' Union and Students from Grant MacEwan, NAIT, and King's University College as they demonstrate on the corners of 109th Street and Jasper Avenue on **November 18, 2004**.

U of A students will be leaving campus from Alumni Walk (by the east entrance of SUB) at 2:30 p.m. sharp. Hot chocolate and other food will be available for participants.

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www.wiseup.ca
www.universitiesmatter.com

Rally of Support:
November 18, 2004

POWER BREAKFAST

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A Service For Students, Staff, Alumni And Guests

Bridget Jones teeters on the edge of boredom

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason

Directed by Beeban Kidron
Starring Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth
and Hugh Grant
Now Playing

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There are a lot of good reasons for a sequel: unconquered temples of doom, unfinished business with the godfather, and ongoing star wars are all examples. Yet with *Bridget Jones's Diary*, a sequel just isn't necessary.

The second *Bridget Jones* installment catches up with Bridget (Renée Zellweger) and her turbulent relationship with human-rights lawyer boyfriend Mark Darcy (Colin Firth). Six weeks since the end of the first movie, Bridget is a big-time London reporter and still her usual awkward self. Her hopeless clumsiness and embarrassing nature leads to her breakup with Mark. Throwing herself into her career, Bridget happens on Daniel Cleaver, her former boss and shameless womanizer, played by the marvellously "charming" Hugh Grant.

Not ready to trust the dastardly Daniel and too proud to take back

Mark, Bridget suffers through a series of embarrassing follies as her two suitors once again fight it out for her affection—this time in new settings and under slightly different circumstances.

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason proves to be not much more than a diluted version of the first movie, flogging old jokes to death and turning Bridget's once sympathetic self-consciousness into an utterly annoying mess of self-pity. Rehabilitating the same storyline from the first film, *The Edge of Reason* seems more like an alternate version of the first film rather than a separate production. The same characters, the same jokes, and basically the same plot are not exactly a recipe for originality. And as for that titular "edge of reason," quite frankly, old Bridget doesn't really get close to it at all.

Honestly, the film isn't terrible, but it tries too hard to recapture the essence of its predecessor. It's occasionally funny, and even if Bridget's character is becoming boring, Firth and Grant manage to bring enough talent to their roles—which are unfortunately much smaller in this film—to make up for the tiredness this movie exudes.

But what really kills the movie is



Bridget. In the first film, the audience could sympathize with her dilemma of being hopelessly awkward but trying to get things right. But midway through *The Edge of Reason*, one loses interest in Bridget and her shortcomings and begins considering why two snappily dressed, upper-class Brits

would still be chasing after a bumbling, neurotic Bridget. Her everywoman charm and empathetic appeal quickly withers away without any character development occurring. It's the same Bridget from the first film dealing with a less uptight Mark Darcy and more deceitful Daniel Cleaver,

who, while still basically the same characters, have at least, in their own ways, become more compassionate and devout, respectively.

So yet another film will join the ranks of sequels that were unable to live up to the first film. Oh Bridget, we hardly knew ye. Oh wait, we totally did.

Sugar Jones: that's what little slacker girls are made of

A Girl Like Sugar

Book Launch
with Emily Pohl-Weary, Jim Munroe
and Stephen Nottley
Remedy
Wednesday, 17 November at 8pm

TYSON KARAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In a literary world packed with dull Sex-in-the-Citizens and shopaholics, Emily Pohl-Weary's *A Girl Like Sugar* is an exciting and shocking break from the mainstream.

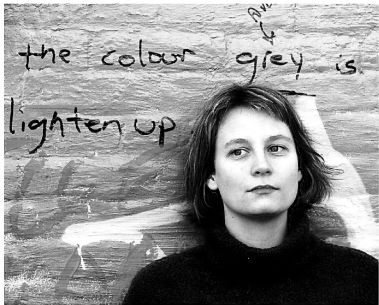
In *A Girl Like Sugar*, Pohl-Weary—a Toronto writer and indie zine editor (*Kiss Machine*, *Broken Pencil*)—creates a realistic, seriously confused heroine who's more concerned with the hidden purpose of her life than her choice of silhouettes. Meet Sugar Jones: she's not a girl, not yet her own person, and despite the Postcards-reminiscent name she's definitely not an all-girl musical act.

Inspired by Douglas Coupland's novel *Shampoo Planet*, Pohl-Weary decided it was time to explore the neglected female contingency of the slacker generation.

"I was dying for a character like Sugar ever since I read *Shampoo Planet*," Pohl-Weary says. "Coupland definitely explores the whole slacker-boy perspective. But I've never once read a character in his books that was female and was explored with as much depth, or that explains why girls aren't ambitious and what exactly makes them apathetic."

A Girl Like Sugar not only comments on slackdom but also cleverly deconstructs pop culture and modern feminism.

The story follows Sugar, a lost girl, who's being erotically and emotionally manipulated by the ghost of her dead rock-star boyfriend. In order to rid herself of the past, Sugar sets out to uncover her ignored self—the self that's been buried since high school



A GIRL-LIKE EMILY POHL-WEARY Author of *A Girl Like Sugar* ponders the finer things—say, hole lyrics and the art of seduction à la Peg Bundy.

(think Parker Posey circa *Party Girl* with bleached blonde hair, listening to Hole's "Awful" on a ghetto blaster).

"Sugar" is most like an anti-hero because she's so passive at the beginning and completely inside her head. I deliberately tried to write a character who wasn't ambitious like how we are told to be, like getting a secure job or just making money," says Pohl-Weary.

Sugar's self-discovery also takes a few turns with sexy results. Whether Sugar goes dildo shopping or fucks her boyfriend's ghost, Pohl-Weary doesn't hesitate in describing sex.

"When I write about sex, it's honest. We all have sex. We all jerk off," she says.

And when writing *A Girl Like Sugar* explicit passages, Pohl-Weary had her own sexual revelation.

"I made this really embarrassing discovery that my notions of what's sexy is informed by Courtney Love and Peggy Bundy from *Married with Children*. But if that's true, I guess I should just embrace it."

Pohl-Weary injects her pop-culture fanaticism into *A Girl Like Sugar* and hopes that the novel will entice her readers, the same way alternative music and cinema have intrigued her.

"When I watch John Waters' movie *Pecker* or listen to Courtney Love's lyrics or Kathleen Hanna's (Bikini Kill, Le Tigre) politicism ... when you see things like that in pop culture you really grasp for them and you really feel validated."

As for the "empty girls" like Sugar to whom she dedicates the novel, she hopes that Sugar's own titillating journey of self-discovery will provoke them to discover exactly who they are on their own terms.

"There's a lot of girls out there coasting, just skidding and being defined by society. That's who I want to read this book. Sugar is someone who takes herself out of that spin and realizes that's not really important. What's important is what comes from inside you. Maybe that sounds like some awful Oprah-like inspirational statement, but it's completely true.

Springtime for Hitler in satirical opera

The Emperor Of Atlantis

The Edmonton Opera and Workshop
West Theatre
Directed by Brian Deedrick
and Ron Jenkins
Conducted by Peter Dala
Starring John Avery, Marianne Bindig,
Uwe Dambach, Thomas Goetz, Brian
Downen, Graham Thomson,
Charlene Smith and Bryce Kulak
Clad Theatre
17–20 November

SARAH CHAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"That was the worst thing I've ever heard!" was the first response caught from an audience member after the final bow for *The Emperor of Atlantis* last Saturday. The much anticipated world premiere of the play by Stephen Massicotte and western premiere of the opera *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* proved to be a lot of firsts for listeners.

The fusion of the two pieces threw listeners for a loop, since the first half was a play about composer Victor Ullmann and writer Petr Kien creating their opera, *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, during their interment in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, otherwise known as the "paradise ghetto."

The second half was the actual production of said opera. How ever atypical, this manner of presentation allowed viewers to experience the secrecy and danger both artists must have undergone while creating a work that satirizes the Third Reich.

The play was a wonderful prelude to the opera itself, with a little bit of humour and a lot of humanity to provide context for the 20th century opera. Understanding that *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* was composed during the Second World War, listeners really shouldn't go in expecting the elegance and lightheartedness of Mozart. Also, considering the circumstances of its composition and the subject matter, one can hardly expect it set through

soaring declarations of love and honour. Instead, themes included irony, the ridiculousness of Hitler and his tyranny, and hope. There was atonality, extreme ranges in the arias and challenging rhythms—but it wasn't devoid of musical merit at all, a testament to the opera's fine performances.

Opera singers can act, but the music more often does the work of conveying meaning and emotion. Singers Bindig, Dambach, Downen and Goetz all demonstrated that they're not just pretty voices, performing as actors during the play prior to changing gears for the opera. Goetz made quite the impression playing composer Ullmann in the play and as the reincarnation of Death as a wounded soldier in the opera. The bass-baritone managed to be seriously morose and strangely hopeful as Ullmann while the warmth in his tone brought out desperation and gravity in his Death character.

Local talent was also notable, with Edmontonians such as Bryce Kulak (in his Edmonton Opera debut), conductor Peter Dala and a bevy of local costume, set, lighting and sound designers all contributing. This highly collaborative effort resulted in a show that isn't supposed to be light-hearted and beautiful but is instead authentic, challenging and intense. Sometimes art is artistically beautiful, but art also exists so that we are encouraged to think and open our minds. *The Emperor of Atlantis* isn't about being dazzled; instead, it's about remembering.

While in Theresienstadt, Ullmann wrote, "I am convinced that all those who, in life and in art, were fighting to force form upon resisting matter will agree with me." Finally, more than 50 years later, we have the opportunity to witness both the form and matter Ullmann and Kien never lived to see. And frankly, though stories involving the Holocaust are never enjoyable, *The Emperor of Atlantis* certainly will not be the worst thing you've ever heard.

For the love of Goat, Who is Sylvia?

Tragicomic play cleverly examines the boundaries of sex and morals

The Goat or Who is Sylvia?

by Edward Albee
Directed by David Storch
Starring Brenda Bazinet, John Jarvis,
Ron Leo and Jon Stewart
The Citadel
Playing until 28 November

ANDREW ROSS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

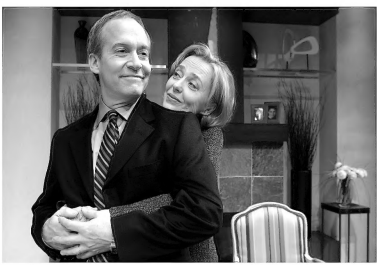
Leave your personal preconceptions concerning sex and morality at home. *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?*, a comic tragedy now playing at the Citadel, will force you to re-examine what you thought you knew about your personal boundaries.

The story follows Martin Gray, an accomplished architect and husband to Stevie and father to Billy. On the surface everything appears prim, proper and quite normal. Martin loves his family dearly.

Billy is a homosexual, but Martin, having a liberal mindset, seems to have accepted his son's sexual orientation with a certain degree of reluctance. This conflict aside, all aspects of Martin's life seem fine. But appearances, as we learn, can be quite deceptive.

Enter Ross, Martin's best friend. Through Ross' persistent questioning of Martin we learn that all is not well in Martin's life. Strangely enough, although Martin loves his wife, he has been unfaithful with someone named Sylvia. Even stranger still, Sylvia is a goat.

Sexual relations with a goat: one wonders whether such a premise could possibly produce an intelligent play. However, *The Goat* is as bril-



liant as its plot is bizarre. The audience cannot help but be actively involved in watching the unfolding of this modern-day tragedy.

Even in what may be considered a progressive society, there still remains the question of whether or not there are limits to what is tolerable. Viewers must respond to the actions of Martin Gray and the play encourages them to examine those initial responses. The setting is one of moral anarchy and the viewer must discover their own personal boundaries. The provocative nature of the play demands audiences question their own limits.

The play is thought provoking, but it's also funny. Much of the play's comedic effect is achieved through the actors playing their roles in a very serious manner—a daunting task considering the inherent hilarity of the goat-sex premise.

Fortunately, the entire cast delivers exemplary performances. In addi-

tion to the demanding nature of the subject matter, the play also requires a substantial amount of physical performance as well. For instance, in one scene Stevie (played by Brenda Bazinet) is required to completely drop the set. Bazinet holds nothing back in her demolition.

While the actors give their all, director David Storch is careful not to take the play over the top. Given that the play deals with bestiality and has outrageously funny moments, there is a danger the play could be interpreted as a comedy. Storch avoids this danger and presents the play more as a tragedy than as simple black comedy. As a result, the message is delivered quite forcefully.

As ambitious as such a task might seem, David Storch and his cast rise to the unique challenges of *The Goat* triumphantly—creating a production that's not for the easily offended or the intellectually lazy.



The Vampire Beach Babes

Beach Blanket Bedlam!
Independent
www.vampirebeachbabes.com

TREVOR NAULT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Vampire Beach Babes make music that's just as strange as the name implies. Their second full-length album, *Beach Blanket Bedlam!* (recorded in Vamp-O-Phonic sound) weaves 60s surf guitar and organs with eccentric rock

vocals sung by Baron Marcus, a heavy-set man (not a babe at all) who wears a leather corset.

Songs like "Hot Foot" and "Devilman" take their inspiration from greaser rock, while "Spunk That Thang" and "Droppin' da Curt" are pure surf psychedelia.

The experience is going to make you want to dust off that B-52s album you used to listen to when you were a kid or drop acid while watching Grease.

The Vampire Beach Babes are experts at recycling the sounds of the '60s, but when it's all said and done, they're more of a novelty act than anything.

And the recording loses all of the theatrics that one might expect from a live show by a band that claims to be vampires. Music lovers who are nostalgic for the novelty of surf and psychedelia, sink your teeth right in, but for everyone else, maybe just try to catch a live show.



Good Charlotte

The Chronicles of Life and Death
Epic Records
www.goodcharlotte.com

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you think of mainstream punk rock, you might think of Good Charlotte.

But Good Charlotte's new CD *The*

Chronicles of Life and Death takes an unexpected turn away from angry teenage noise to catchy lyrics and sounds.

Good Charlotte mixes their punk-rock style with slower and lighter melodies. Some songs such as "The Truth" and "The World is Black" reveal soft-rock undertones. Others, such as "I Just Wanna Live," take on a hip-hop rhythm.

Good Charlotte's new album undoubtedly includes their signature rebellious sound in catchy new tunes. But by experimenting with original tones, they produce a colourful blend of songs instead of repetitive drum banging and guitar blaring.

The Chronicles of Life and Death is a destined favourite for the punk-rock lover. And this time, they may also snag a wider audience than those adolescent troublemakers.

Open House: Cancer Research



Have You Thought of
Doing Graduate Studies
in Cancer Research?

Open House:

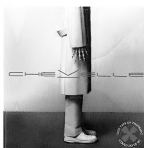
DATE: Friday, November 19, 2004
TIME: 3-6 pm
PLACE: Rm 2279, 2nd floor
Cross Cancer Institute
11560 University Avenue

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For more information about this program, please contact Roseline Godbout: rgodbout@ualberta.ca



Chevelle

This Type of Thinking (Could Do Us In)
Epic
www.chevellein.com

YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Christian-rock band Chevelle has not only played the main stage at Ozfest but they've opened for bands like Korn, Sevendust, and Powerman 5000.

While this list of credits might make it seem

like there's nothing Chevelle can't do, listening to their new album, *This Type of Thinking (Could Do Us In)*, it becomes painfully obvious that there's one thing they can't do—create an interesting song.

Composed of brothers Pete, Joe, and Sam Loeffler, the group fails to bring any originality to what has become the generic sound of today's modern rock.

It's difficult to tell each track apart, as heavy chords and wailing vocals spill out of each and every song. Hints of hardcore (as hardcore as Christian rock can get) peek through in "The Clincher" and "Emotional Drought."

Pete Loeffler's scream-like vocals only momentarily distract listeners from the relentless drone of his guitar.

The album closes with its most bearable track, "Bend the Bracket," a ballad with a strong resemblance to the sounds of Incubus.

Chevelle's new album shows no evidence of a band worthy of headlining. It's wonder their résumé is so full of opening gigs.



Limblifter

I/O
Limblifter Records
www.limblifter.com

LONDON MILLER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I/O, Limblifter's third release, brings back the pop-rock power fusion that helped them stake a claim over eight years ago. Founding member Ryan Dahle, fuses his colic—if not

darkly comedic—lyrics and ringing guitar riffs to create a surprisingly light but substantial statement.

Since their debut, Limblifter has seen ample lineup changes, losing members to the likes of Canadian supergroup The New Pornographers. Capitalizing on the fresh, new talent of the latest Limblifter lineup, *I/O* employs minimalist instrumentation in captivating and unobtrusive ways to highlight the clear vocals that often feature particularly haunting and well-placed harmonies.

The disc gets off to a bit of a predictable start that resembles many formulaic alt-rock groups flooding today's music industry with mediocrity, but quickly gains pace. "Perfect Day to Disappear" features the canniest hook on the entire disc, almost guaranteeing radio play, while "Alarm Bells" beautifully incorporates symphonic strings with gloomy lyrics to paint a greyer picture of life.

Despite Limblifter's turbulent history, this record makes one hope they're here to stay.

POST-GRADUATE TIME TRAVELLER by Mike Winters



LOGIC PUZZLE by Scott C Bourgeois



MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



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ASTRONOMY WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

You know what? If I talk about my life this week I'll just go on too much of a rant, so you're all spared the pain and discomfort of reading about my celestial sorrows. Astronomy!

This week we have a meteor shower being served for your pleasure. The Leonid meteor shower, to be precise. It'll start early Wednesday morning, around 3am-ish. It's not expected to be very intense this year, so someplace away from the city lights will be a better place to watch. If you're stuck in the city, find somewhere outside where you can

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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lie with your toes pointing away from the Big Dipper. And pray to the gods above for it to be clear.

You know what? That's about it. The whole space news genre has been quiet lately. But don't worry. Next week I'll dredge up something crazily exciting, even if it kills me. Which it might. Gack.

AstronomyWatch is a weekly feature published every Tuesday. Our resident astronomer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory every Thursday evening at 8pm. Just take the elevator in the Physics Building up to the sixth floor, and then the stairs up to the seventh floor. Walk out onto the roof and check out the view with the University's telescopes. If you want to check out **AstronomyWatch** on the web at theuniverse.blogspot.com.

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